

# Special Education Re-Opening Protocols for Parents/Guardians

January 2021



## Table of Contents

- 1) Preparing a Child to Wear a Face Covering – **Page 4**
- 2) Other Healthy Practices – **Page 5**
- 3) Toileting Protocol – **Page 6**
- 4) Appendix - **Page 8-13**

***Keeping everyone safe is our top priority. This document is intended to address some of the special needs of our students with a disability. Please refer to the District reopening plan for more detailed information.***

*From the 2020-2021 District Code of Conduct Addendum (Covid-19) :*

*During the COVID-19 pandemic, students have a responsibility to:*

- a. Wear a face mask or covering (unless the student has a documented medical exemption from wearing a mask), which covers the student's mouth and nose, while in school or on when using bus transportation, on the way to and from school. This requirement may be altered when students are eating meals at school.*

*EXCEPTION: Students with a documented medical condition and/or disability may be exempt from wearing a face mask or covering if it would impair their health or mental health, or present a challenge, distraction, or obstruction to education services and instruction. However, such exemptions are subject to approval of the BPS' legal department and the building's principal, upon review of provided documentation, and other additional measures will need to be implemented to ensure safety and wellness.*

For those students who are medically exempt, they will be required to minimally wear a face shield. Students who are not able to tolerate a face shield will be enrolled in remote learning.

Additionally, Pre-K students will not be required to wear a mask during nap/rest. Students will not wear a mask while eating or consuming beverages but will be expected to remain socially distanced during that time.

## PREPARING A CHILD TO WEAR A FACE COVERING:

Wearing a mask greatly reduces the spread of COVID –19. Therefore, it is important that we prepare our children to wear a mask while at school.

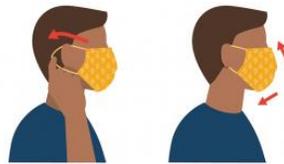
Masks:

*• Teach and reinforce use of masks. The use of masks is one of many important mitigation strategies to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Masks are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms. They also protect the wearer.*

*• Appropriate and consistent use of masks is most important when students, teachers, and staff are indoors and when social distancing is difficult to implement or maintain. However, the wearing of masks must occur even when social distancing is possible. Students should frequently be reminded not to touch the face covering or mask and to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer frequently.*

Visual aids will help students to understand this process

### Wear a Mask Correctly.



- Wash your hands before putting on your mask.
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin.
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face.
- Make sure you can breathe easily.

### Take Off Your Mask Carefully



- Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops
- Handle only by the ear loops or ties
- Fold outside corners together
- Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth when removing and wash hands immediately after removing.

### **Strategies for home:**

- Parents should discuss the importance of wearing a mask with their child. If possible, allow your child to wear a mask of their preference (e.g., a purple mask or a mask with characters).

#### *PRACTICE WEARING THE MASKS*

- Start wearing a face covering at home for short periods of time while doing fun activities. Some may only need a few minutes to adjust, while others may need to practice daily. Gradually work up to 30 minutes. You can even make it a competition. Let's see who can wear their mask longest without touching it first!
- Whenever it is necessary to go outside the home and in public with your child, make sure they keep the mask on properly and continue practicing what they learned at home.

#### *FOLLOW A PLAN AND OFFER REWARDS*

- Consistency helps form good habits. Make a plan with your family and stick to it! Find what motivates your child and set some fun goals or small rewards, if needed.

#### *MAKE PLAY MASKS FOR STUFFED ANIMALS OR DOLLS*

- Kids might think masks are not quite so scary when EVERYONE is wearing them...including their favorite toys! Help them using materials around the house (or coordinating fabric you have already sewn up) to make their favorite toy its very own mask!

#### *BE A MASK ROLE MODEL*

- Whenever you are in public, make sure you're wearing a mask yourself so that your child can learn by example. Also, take this opportunity to explain how wearing masks keeps both you and others around you safe.

## **Other Healthy Practices**

### **Strategies for home:**

- Parents should discuss the importance of social distancing with their child.

#### *PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING*

- Make social distancing a fun math activity. Measure 6 ft distances around your home so your child has a sense of what 6 ft looks like.
- Make your child aware of the 6 ft markers posted on the floors in stores and out in the community.

## **Toileting Protocol:**

### **Toilet Training:**

In certain circumstances students will need support with toileting and feeding. Pre-kindergarten, kindergarten students and Special Needs students cannot be denied public schooling even if they are not toilet trained, according to the New York State Education Department. As in past practice, the teaching team will establish a plan with the family to assist in potty training the student. Teachers Assistants/Teacher Aides can be assigned to support students with toileting needs.

Resources:

[https://www.actcommunity.ca/education/videos/toilet-training-for-everyone/gclid=EAlalQobChMtl\\_N8uOy7glVGyVlCh3nTAdgEAAYASAAEgKfMvD\\_BwE](https://www.actcommunity.ca/education/videos/toilet-training-for-everyone/gclid=EAlalQobChMtl_N8uOy7glVGyVlCh3nTAdgEAAYASAAEgKfMvD_BwE)

<https://www.schoolhealthny.com/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&ModuleInstanceId=219&ViewID=7b97f7ed-8e5e-4120-848f-a8b4987d588f&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=201&PageID=144>

### **Toileting non-ambulatory students:**

When toileting non-ambulatory students, staff will be unable to maintain social distancing. Therefore, additional PPE will be needed. Staff should wear a mask, face shield, gloves and a gown when toileting a student who is physically unable to toilet themselves. The Division of Student Support Services can provide a video to train staff on the removal and disposal of a gown.

### **Strategies for home:**

- Send in multiple changes of clothes in case accidents occur in school.
- Talk with your child's teacher to establish a routine that can be used consistently at both home and school.
- Be encouraging to the child. When there is an accident talk to the child about what happened in a non-shameful way.

### **Resources for Toileting:**

- Books for Adults:
- *Stress-Free Potty Training: A Commonsense Guide to Finding the Right Approach for Your Child*, by Sara Au
- *On Becoming Pottywise for Toddlers: A Developmental Readiness Approach to Potty Training*, by Gary Ezzo & Robert Bucknam
- *Potty Training 1-2-3: What Works, How it Works, Why it Works*, by Gary Ezzo & Anne Marie Ezzo

- Books for Children:
- *Diapers Are Not Forever/Los Panales no son para siempre*, by Elizabeth Verdick
- *The Potty Book for Boys*, by Alyssa Satin Capucilli
- *The Potty Book for Girls*, by Alyssa Satin Capucilli
- *Everyone Poops (My Body Science Series)*, by Taro Gomi
- *Once Upon a Potty – Boy*, by Alona Frankel
- *Once Upon a Potty – Girl*, by Alona Frankel

#### References:

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (2020) *FAQ for School Administration on Reopening*

*Schools FAQs About Reopening.*

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (2020) *Coronavirus Dease 2019 (COVID 19)*

*Operational Considerations for Schools.*

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (2016) *Guidelines for Supporting Toileting Learning.*

United Federation of Teachers (2010) *Toileting and Diapering Procedures.*

## Wearing a Mask During COVID-19

To help keep yourself and everyone else safe from COVID-19, it's important to wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth when you leave your house. If you are at home, you can take off your mask.



The infographic consists of six circular illustrations arranged in two rows. The top row shows: 1) hands holding a mask by its ties/ear loops; 2) a person wearing a mask snugly against their face; 3) two children wearing masks. The bottom row shows: 1) a person touching their mask with their hands, marked with a red 'X'; 2) a person taking off a mask and touching their face, marked with a red 'X'; 3) hands being washed with soap and water.

The mask should be held on with ties or ear loops.

It should fit comfortably (but snugly) against the side of your face, and not restrict your breathing.

Children 2 years and older should also wear a mask.

Do not touch your mask while you are wearing it.

When you take off your mask, do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.

Wash your hands immediately.



### Cloth masks should not be put on:

- children under 2
- anyone who has trouble breathing
- anyone who is unconscious
- anyone unable to remove their mask without help.

# Wear a Mask to Protect You and Your Friends

## PUT ON



WASH YOUR HANDS



PLACE OVER NOSE AND MOUTH

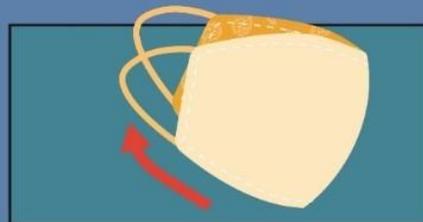


MAKE SURE YOU CAN BREATHE EASILY

## TAKE OFF



TAKE OFF YOUR MASK



FOLD OUTSIDE CORNERS TOGETHER



PUT ASIDE FOR WASHING



WASH YOUR HANDS

WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN, WEAR A MASK, AND STAY 6 FEET FROM OTHERS.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

ES 102984 10/17/2020

## HOW TO WEAR A MASK PROPERLY



**Wear**  
your mask all the way up,  
close to the bridge of your  
nose and all the way down  
under your chin. The mask  
should fit snug around your  
face without gaps.



**Do not**  
leave your  
chin exposed



**Do not**  
wear a mask  
loosely with gaps  
on the side



**Do not**  
wear your mask  
so it covers just  
the tip of your nose



**Do not**  
push your mask  
on your neck



**Do not**  
wear the mask  
below your nose

This appendix contains a listing of You Tube Videos from the website weareteachers.com that special education teachers can use with their students to teach them how to stay safe during a global pandemic.

*Sing the Wear A Mask song*

**Best For:** Pre-K and Early Elementary

**Why to Watch:** Doctors Bob and Pop sing a cute song that emphasizes that even though life is a little different right now, everyone is still the same behind their masks. It explains the basics of wearing a mask tightly over your mouth and nose. While geared toward the Pre-K crowd, early elementary kids will enjoy the catchy song too.

<https://youtu.be/a9QTxUkIE0w>

*Learn why It's So Important to Wear a Mask*

**Best For:** Pre-K and Early Elementary

**Why to Watch:** With soothing music and clearly-voiced narration, this read-aloud style mask video is an easy watch for young kids. It explains how masks protect us from virus droplets in language kids can understand and emphasizes the importance of handwashing too.

<https://youtu.be/AAunPZit2XU>

*Meet the Helpers*

**Best For:** Pre-K to Early Elementary

**Why to Watch:** This quick video explains how masks protect you and others from germs. It encourages kids to be “germ-busters” by wearing cloth masks.

<https://youtu.be/OLO1GNXKmNE>

*Ask Why Do People Wear Masks?*

**Best For:** Pre-K to Early Elementary

**Why to Watch:** Here is another catchy song explaining that people wear masks, so they don't get sick. It has lots of pictures of kids and adults of all kinds wearing masks, making it easier for kids to connect.

<https://youtu.be/iE6L-4tO-rs>

*There's a Why Do People Wear Masks? version for older kids, too*

**Best For:** Elementary

**Why to Watch:** Older elementary kids will enjoy this hip-hop version of the *Why Do People Wear Masks?* song! The photos show diverse groups of people wearing masks and reminds us we wear masks to protect both ourselves and others. This mask video for kids does not cover how to wear a mask properly, though, so pair it with another video or activity to cover those important points.

<https://youtu.be/NMVsCwKeARQ>

*Listen to the talking hand*

**Best For:** Elementary

**Why to Watch:** Simple but fun animation is backed with clear narration explaining how kids can keep themselves safe from coronavirus. This mask video for kids includes five quick tips like not touching your mask, making sure it covers your mouth and nose, and more. We really like this one for the elementary crowd.

<https://youtu.be/SZPROzPNqDM>

*Get your info straight from the World Health Organization*

**Best For:** Elementary through High School

**Why to Watch:** This video put out by the World Health Organization (WHO) gives clear, easy-to-follow instructions on how to wear a mask safely. The animations demonstrate the tips and show a diverse population of folks using masks. It is not an exciting video, but it tells kids (and adults) exactly what they need to know.

[https://youtu.be/9Tv2BVN\\_WTk](https://youtu.be/9Tv2BVN_WTk)

### *Watch Bill Nye's Awesome Demo*

**Best For:** Older Elementary through High School

**Why to Watch:** Bill Nye the “Science Guy” has been teaching us practical science for generations. His viral (in a good way!) video demonstrates the effectiveness of masks by restricting airflow. As usual, Bill Nye’s video is engaging, fun, and informative, which is why this is one of the most popular mask videos for kids (and grown-ups) out there!

<https://youtu.be/AOUclAmrhVI>

### *Explore How Well Masks Work*

**Best For:** Middle and High School

**Why to Watch:** This video delves deeper into the science behind masks, and while kids may not follow all the technical details of some of the experiments, the visuals are really compelling. Learn how properly fitted masks work to keep virus droplets from spreading from person to person. (Note that this video briefly mentions condoms and STIs, so know your audience. It is toward the end, so you can stop the video early if you prefer.)

<https://youtu.be/0Tp0zB904Mc>

### *Debunk the Face Mask Myths*

**Best For:** Middle and High School

**Why to Watch:** Produced by PBS, this video is part of the same series as Why Masks Work (above). It debunks myths about face masks, ranging from why the smell from passing gas is not the same as coronavirus droplets to whether masks deprive you of oxygen. This video was made for adults, but it is appropriate for high school and even most middle school audiences. And the information is fascinating!

<https://youtu.be/npXP5wqNzal>

### *CDC Recommended video that demonstrate mask-wearing:*

Best For: Grades K-12

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMCS6gT8SzQ>

### **Mask Resources:**

- *Edutopia: How to Help Students Get Used to Masks*

- *“In many places, students returning to school buildings will be required to wear masks. These strategies can help elementary students adjust.” - Edutopia*
- <https://www.edutopia.org/article/how-help-students-get-used-masks>