
STUDENT MASKING POLICY

Phoenix Montessori School has adopted this policy and the following procedures for student masking in the lower and upper elementary classrooms as required by the Ministry of Education and Toronto Public Health. All measures have been copied directly from the document for which the link is provided at the bottom of this policy. Those specific to Phoenix Montessori School are shown in italics.

According to Public Health Ontario masking is an essential part of slowing the spread of Covid-19. It protects not only your children but the staff from potential infections.

PROCEDURES

Masks and hand washing

Schools will:

- ensure students are wearing a mask when required
- train students on appropriate hand hygiene
- schedule breaks for students to wash their hands
- have hand sanitizer available at key locations throughout the school

Students

Grades 1 to 12

Students must wear non-medical or cloth masks indoors, including in hallways and during classes and on school vehicles.

Students can remove masks indoors to consume food or drink only, with a minimum distance of two metres maintained between cohorts.

Kindergarten

We encourage students in kindergarten to wear non-medical or cloth masks indoors in school, as well as on school vehicles.

Students do not need to wear masks outdoors. School and school boards can create reasonable exceptions to wearing a mask.

When you don't have to wear a face covering

There are some situations when you do not need to wear a face covering.

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You do not need medical documentation to support any of the exceptions below.

Health and accommodations

You do not need to wear a face covering if you:

- have a medical condition that inhibits your ability to wear a face covering
- are unable to put on or remove your face covering without help from someone else
- are receiving accommodations according to the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* or the *Human Rights Code*

Children will have to wear a shield at all times if they are not wearing a mask for any of the exemptions above. An explanation of the reason for not wearing a mask must be in the child's file. When participating in a group lesson where social distancing cannot be maintained the child will be asked to wear a mask for the duration of the lesson or be at least 3 feet away from the other children in the lesson.

Temporarily taking off your face covering

You can take off your face covering temporarily:

- to engage in an athletic or fitness activity
- to eat or drink
- as necessary for health and safety purposes

When masks are removed for the above reasons, social distancing of a minimum 3 feet within the cohort will need to be maintained.

How to properly use face coverings

When wearing a face covering, you should:

- wash your hands immediately before putting it on and immediately after taking it off (practise good hand hygiene while you are wearing the face covering)
- make sure the face covering fits well around your nose and mouth
- avoid moving the mask around or adjusting it often
- avoid touching the covering while using it – if a child is observed touching the outside of the face covering, they will be sent to wash hands, change mask for a clean one and wash hands again
- not share it with others

Face coverings should be changed when they get slightly wet or dirty.

All elementary children are asked to bring a fanny pack, bag or pouch in which to store used and clean masks. Clean masks should be in a separate Ziploc so as to keep them separated from used masks which are being returned home for cleaning.

Remove or dispose of face coverings

When removing a face covering, you should:

- throw it out into a lined garbage bin
- wash your hands

Do not leave any discarded face coverings in the environment or on the ground.

Cleaning

If the face covering **can be cleaned**, you should:

- put it directly into the washing machine or a bag that can be emptied into the washing machine
- wash with other items using a hot cycle with laundry detergent (no special soaps are needed), and dry thoroughly
- wash your hands after putting the face covering into the laundry

All face coverings **that cannot be cleaned** should be thrown out and replaced as soon as they get slightly wet, dirty or crumpled.

For more information, please read the [Public Health Ontario \(PHO\) fact sheet](#).

[COVID-19: health and safety measures at schools | Ontario.ca](#)