

Face Coverings in School.

As children, young people and staff have been returning to school, we have been asked for more information about Face Coverings. All our planning and preparation for the opening of schools has been explicitly linked to and built on advice and guidance prepared by the Scottish Government. This guidance was developed to support a safe return to school for all children, young people and staff. It takes full account of progress made in suppressing COVID-19 in Scotland, the scientific advice received and the advice of the Education Recovery Group and other key stakeholders.

The advice and guidance at the time of writing is that **face coverings should not be required for most children and young people** (those clinically advised to wear a covering are an exception). However, anyone (whether pupil or adult) wishing to wear face protection may do so and will be enabled to do so.

Evidence suggests that face coverings do not provide significant protection for the wearer, rather they primarily reduce the risk of transmission and help suppress the virus. Physical distancing, hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene are the most important and effective things we can all do to prevent the spread of coronavirus. The wearing of face coverings must not be used as an alternative to any of these other precautions.

In general, we know that people must wear a face covering in shops, on public transport and public transport premises such as railway and bus stations and airports, and in certain other indoor public places. As the wearing of face coverings/masks becomes more commonplace in Scotland, it is possible that more people may choose to wear a face covering in the school setting. It is also possible that before or after school a face covering will be needed (to travel by sea, air or on the public bus service for example), so the correct use and safe storage of face coverings is important.

What is a face covering?

A face covering can be a covering of any type, except a face shield, that covers the mouth and nose. It is recommended that it be made of cloth or other textiles and should be two, and preferably three layers thick, and through which you can breathe. Transparent face coverings which assist communication for those who rely on lip reading and facial expressions can also be worn.

Face shields may be used, but only if they are worn in addition to a face covering underneath, as the evidence shows that they do not provide adequate protection.

If you are unable to wear a face covering, a face visor or face shield can be worn as it does provide a limited level of protection.

Use and Storage of Face Coverings.

Every time you apply or remove a covering, it is important that you wash or sanitise your hands first and avoid touching your face. Check the covering, don't use it if it's wet or dirty. When temporarily storing a face covering, such as in a pocket when moving between spaces, it should be placed in a washable bag or container and you should avoid placing it on surfaces, due to the possibility of contamination. After each use, you must wash the face covering at 60 degrees centigrade or in boiling water, or dispose of it safely

HOW TO WEAR A NON-MEDICAL FABRIC MASK SAFELY

Do's →



A fabric mask can protect others around you. To protect yourself and prevent the spread of COVID-19, remember to keep at least 1 metre distance from others, clean your hands frequently and thoroughly, and avoid touching your face and mask.

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