



# Wearing a Mask

The Ontario Ministry of Education has expanded the mandatory requirement to wear masks at school to **include all students in Grades 1 to 3**. This new requirement will be effective when students return to in-person classroom learning, as directed by the Ontario government.

Students in Kindergarten are to be encouraged but not required to wear masks.

Students who ride buses **must be wearing masks** when they get on board.



## HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD BE COMFORTABLE WEARING A MASK

**Students may wear their own non-medical masks, and non-medical masks are available for students.**

When buying or making a mask you should look for a mask that has:



Two or three layers of tightly woven, but breathable, cloth such as cotton, flannel or quilting cotton.



A secure fitting to cover the nose, mouth, and chin. Should be in contact with the face without gapping.



Horizontal pleats to help fit a variety of faces (pleats face downward when wearing).



Re-usable fabric that can be washed after use or when damp and dirty.

- Promote a positive attitude about taking part in helping our communities stay safe and show the youngest children that they can contribute just as you and their older siblings do.
- Purchase/make fun masks if this will encourage them to wear them proudly.
- Have younger children print their names on the front so that they know which way to wear the mask.
- Model safe mask use as you wear your own mask in the community at large.
- Let your child know that his/her teachers will be wearing them too and that they will help your child get accustomed to wearing one.
- Be sure they know not to share masks with others.
- Before putting on the mask, children need to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 15 seconds or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer. They should practice this at home prior to start of school.

## PLEASE NOTE:

- Masks must provide a tight seal at the chin and nose and cover the mouth (e.g. a gaiter is appropriate; a bandana is not acceptable).
- Students should be sent to school with at least one additional mask in case their masks become soiled, damaged or lost.
- Parents are encouraged to have their children practice how to wear a mask prior to coming back to school.

**The new requirement is effective January 25, 2021 for those students in Grades 1 to 3 who have special needs and who are currently attending school because their learning cannot be accommodated online.**

Wearing a mask helps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and helps protect people who are around you.

When other people wear a mask, they are helping to protect you.

How do I properly wear a mask?

Watch here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tfQGRuBE4&feature=youtu.be>