FAQs

Why should my child wear a face mask?

The Chief Health Officer has implemented the wearing of a face mask as an additional physical barrier to COVID-19, to protect you, your child and your community during the current High Caseload environment.

How long will this be a requirement?

The Chief Health Officer will advise when this is no longer a requirement.

When is my child required to wear a face mask at school?

All students in Years 3 and above must wear a mask indoors at school at all times and outdoors where physical distancing is not possible, unless they:

- have a medical certificate issued by a registered medical practitioner confirming a physical, developmental or mental illness, condition or disability which makes wearing a face covering inappropriate;
- are communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing, and visibility of the mouth is essential for communication;
- are engaged in physical activity, including physical education classes, swimming and organised sport;
- are consuming food, drink or medicine;

When staff are providing teaching or instructions to students they do no have to wear a mask, however staff are encouraged to wear masks even when teaching, where possible.

What type of face masks should we use?

There are two types of face masks you can use: disposable surgical masks or fitted cloth masks that cover the nose and mouth.

- Cloth masks are made of washable fabric and can be re-used.
- Disposable surgical masks are single use masks and cannot be washed or re-used.
- Scarves and bandanas are not suitable to be used as face masks.

Where can we get face masks?

You can purchase cloth masks or surgical masks from chemists, most supermarkets and other shops or online, or you can make them.

How do we put on a mask correctly?

1. Clean your hands with soap and water or hand sanitiser before you put on your mask.
2. Hold the mask by its tapes or loops, then tie the mask around your head or put the loops around your ears.
3. Make sure the mask completely covers your mouth and nose, and that there are no gaps between your face and the mask. If you are using a surgical mask, press the nose piece around your nose.

Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth or the front of the mask while wearing it.

If the mask gets soiled or damp, replace it with a new one.

How do we take off a mask correctly?

1. Clean your hands with soap and hand sanitiser before you take off your mask.
2. Take the mask off from behind your head by pulling the tapes or loops straightforward and moving the mask away from your face. Do not touch the front of the mask.
3. If you are using a surgical mask, cut the loops and throw the mask in the bin. If you are using a cloth mask, put it straight in the laundry or store used face masks in a plastic bag until you can wash them.
4. Clean your hands with soap and water or hand sanitiser after you take off your mask and throw it away or store it to wash.

When is it safe to take off a face mask?

You can take off your mask outdoors once you are away from other people, or in your own home or boarding facility.

Can we re-use our face masks?

You should not re-use surgical masks.

You can wash and re-use cloth masks. It is a good idea to have multiples, so you will always have clean masks available for you and your family.

How should we wash cloth masks?

Cloth masks should be washed in the washing machine with the warmest appropriate water setting, or hand-washed using soap and the hottest water bearable.