



Frequently Asked Questions: Face Mask Safety Plan

Why are individually wrapped face masks so important?

We repackage all masks with individual plastic wraps. We recognize the added waste, but this protects the masks from contamination during distribution. If masks are not individually packaged, you risk contamination of your entire supply every time someone is in contact with them. Additionally, individually packaged masks present a higher quality of product and increased sense of 'respect' from recipients for the product. A higher level of safety yields added confidence for students, staff, and teachers in the reopening plan.

What if my school has already purchased bulk PPE, and the masks are not individually packaged?

We are committed to ensuring schools open safely, and have determined one of the most important steps to this is using individually packaged face masks. For this reason, if supply is available, **we will exchange any masks previously purchased (so long as they are certified and inventory is available) for our individually packaged 3-ply masks at no additional cost**, ensuring you can start the school year on the same program and baseline as everyone.

CDC recommends cloth face masks for schools reopening; why is your plan requiring 3-ply masks?

Further within this recommendation, both CDC and WHO also prescribe a strict cleaning policy for proper use. To prevent spread, cloth masks should be washed daily, removed if they get wet or soiled and stored in a sterile bag or container when not in use. Providing 3-ply masks each day dramatically minimize the variables of bringing contamination into schools. Additionally, standardizing this resource can reduce bullying, shaming or class discrimination around masks, creating an equal environment for safety.

Does wearing a mask really prevent the spread of COVID19?

The CDC states: Masks are recommended as a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the mask coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. This is called source control. This recommendation is based on what we know about the role respiratory droplets play in the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19, paired with emerging evidence from clinical and laboratory studies that shows masks reduce the spray of droplets when worn over the nose and mouth. COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet), so the use of masks is particularly important in settings where people are close to each other or where social distancing is difficult to maintain.



Why do each student and teacher need a new mask every day?

The CDC states: The potential number of hours of extended use is dependent on local and individual factors such as humidity and length. In practice, this would likely be a maximum of six hours. If the mask becomes moist, damaged, visibly soiled, or difficult to breathe through, it should be removed using appropriate technique and disposed of following the safety plan protocols.

What does 3-ply mean?

3-ply face masks are made of an outer layer of non woven fabric, a middle layer made of a filter fabric, and an inner layer made of a soft, skin gentle facial tissue. Fluid resistant, unlike cloth masks, provide protection against large droplets or sprays of bodily fluids.

Will students be allowed to wear their own masks?

Students will be expected to wear their own masks ONLY on their way to school and on their way home. Our plan begins just before a student enters the building, and ends once they leave the building. Upon arrival, they will receive a storage bag for their personal mask, then sanitize their hands and put their new individually packaged mask on. After they leave the building, they can dispose of their 3-ply mask and put their personal mask back on.

What if a student soils their mask during the day?

Every classroom should be equipped with enough masks to provide any students who need a replacement. Schools will also stock enough supplies to keep each classroom with a sufficient inventory of all PPE supplies.

What does PPE mean?

Personal protective equipment, commonly referred to as "PPE", is equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious injuries and illnesses.

Do you have different size masks for kids and adults?

We have masks for youth and adults. Our youth masks are recommended for kids under the age of 10, but vary based on the size of the student and the fit of the mask.

How are your prices so low compared to the majority of vendors?

We work directly with certified factories and trusted suppliers from our main business services. There are no brokers or agents in the purchasing pipeline. By working with multiple schools, we can aggregate orders, receiving lower prices for bulk purchasing and reduced shipping costs. We pass these savings onto the schools and are committed to ensuring the best possible prices you will find.



What is the policy for visitors or vendors coming into the school building?

The policy for visitors or vendors is the same as teachers and students. When they enter the building, they will receive a storage bag for their personal mask, clean their hands, and put on a new mask. We supply schools with signage, template emails and information for websites to ensure all vendors and visitors are aware of this system prior to their arrival.

What other benefits come from providing standard issued masks?

- Eliminate the risk of individuals not taking proper care for their personal masks
- Reduce class discrimination by providing all students what they need
- Remove any distraction and possible bullying scenarios that come from personal reusable masks
- Set a baseline of safety, so at least you know one of the major threats to contamination has been standardized.