



Parkland School Division Mask Protocol

Updated, January 9, 2022

Mandatory Mask Use: Staff, Students (Grade 4 through grade 12), and All Visitors

Masks will be required as follows:

- Masks will be required for all students grades 4-12, staff and visitors in all indoor school common areas such as hallways, the school office, public washrooms, cafeterias, etc.
- Students will be asked to wear a mask at all times, even when seated at their desk, when the activity, proximity to other students/staff, or room configuration does not allow for appropriate physical distancing.
- When it has been determined by the classroom teacher that masks are required at all times, students will be given opportunities for the removal of their mask for:
 - Specific period of times,
 - During designated activities, and/or
 - When it is determined to be safe to do so by the classroom teacher.
- Additional mask requirements may be instituted by the Superintendent of Schools in certain situations including, but not limited to:
 - A school is under Outbreak, as defined by AHS.
 - Students are required to wear a mask, regardless of grade or provision in this outbreak protocol, whenever and wherever students are instructed to wear a mask.
- Masks are **required on the school bus** for all staff and students, Kindergarten to Grade 12.
 - Masks may be removed by bus drivers when the mask poses a safety risk.
- Masks are not required outside when appropriate distancing can be maintained.
- The Superintendent of Schools, or designate, may determine programming, activities or situations that allow students to remove their masks for the duration of the activity, when:
 - Additional safety measures are in place or use, or
 - The nature of the activity makes mask impractical.
- Masks are not required during strenuous physical activities (such as during physical education classes or during sporting activities).

Mask Exemptions

- A person is not required to wear a mask if the person is:
 - Unable to place or remove the mask without assistance;
 - Seated while consuming food or drink; or
 - Providing or receiving care, assistance, or instruction where a mask would hinder that care, assistance, or instruction when there are additional measures in place.

- A person who is unable to wear a mask due to a health condition and who has a medical exemption letter provided by an authorizing health professional is exempted from wearing a mask.
- Students with complex medical and/or learning needs may qualify for a mask exemption, to be determined on an individual basis by the school principal.

Additional Mask Protocols

- It is strongly recommended that K-3 students wear masks as per this protocol. Teachers will encourage students who can properly wear masks to do so.
- Some activities for K-3 students (i.e. singing) may require a mask as determined by the teacher or school principal.
- K-3 students are required to have a mask with them when at school and will be encouraged to wear masks if they can do so properly.
 - K-3 teachers will teach students responsible use of masks and will request masks be used for educational purpose and demonstration at times as determined by the teacher
- Find out how to choose and wear a non-medical mask to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
 - For reference, see also – Alberta Government: [COVID-19 Mask requirements](#).
 - A face shield is not generally accepted instead of a mask. Specific requests for the use of a face shield may be granted by the school principal.
- The mask needs to fully cover your face from the nose (above the nostrils) to the chin and be worn without gaps between the mask and face.
 - See also: Alberta Government: [Guidance for Wearing Non-Medical Masks](#)
 - Masks should be well-constructed, well-fitted and properly worn.
 - If non-medical masks are worn, they should be constructed of at least three layers: two of breathable tightly woven fabric, such as cotton, and an additional effective middle filter layer, such as nonwoven polypropylene.
 - Medical masks can also be worn by staff and students to provide additional protection.
- Before putting on a mask, hands should be washed with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or alcohol-based hand sanitizer with a minimum of 60% alcohol.
- When non-medical face masks are used, hands should be cleaned before and after putting it on and taking it off. Avoid touching the mask once it is on. Masks should be changed after they become wet or soiled.
- Do not reuse masks that are wet or soiled prior to laundering. A wet or soiled mask that requires laundering should be placed into a sealed bag or container where it is stored until it can be taken home and washed.
- Disposable masks that are damaged or dirty should be discarded into a garbage bin that is lined with a plastic bag.

Parents can support their children by practicing mask wearing at home and by reinforcing that masks help us all stay safe and healthy. We truly appreciate our families, staff, students and community efforts to keep everyone in good health.