



# GECD SB - Mask Protocol

## **Students**

In accordance with the Ministry of Education's direction, all students in grades 1–12 are to wear cloth or non-medical masks while in class, in the hallways of the school, and when outdoors if physical distancing of two metres cannot be maintained, e.g. recess and walking to and from school.

It is strongly recommended that students in junior and senior kindergarten wear cloth or non-medical face masks when attending school.

All students are required to wear cloth or non-medical masks while on the school bus.

Students may wear masks made available to them by the school or they may wear their own personal non-medical masks provided they cover the nose and mouth. These masks can be cloth or homemade, and can include hijab, niqab, burka, scarf or bandana.

Please refer to [Non-Medical Masks and Face Coverings - How to Put On, Remove and Clean](#)

## **Staff Members**

All staff members are provided with medical masks and face shields. Masks must be worn at all times while working indoors, including in hallways and during classes. The only exceptions will be outdoor activities if staff members are able to physically distance, or when working in an area where there are no other people, for example, in an office. All staff members must wear face shields with their masks when there is a risk of droplets or other bodily fluids making contact with eyes and face or they are within two metres of another individual. In line with the Windsor Essex County Health Unit, we will not accept face shields in place of masks. All staff members masks must cover the nose and the mouth.

## **Mask Exemptions**

In some circumstances, there may be medical exemptions to wearing masks at school.

The Ministry of Education's [COVID-19: Guidance for School Reopening](#) (July 29, 2020, updated January 21, 2021) document indicates that some students may not be able to tolerate wearing masks due to sensory or breathing issues.

[Province of Ontario – Face Coverings and Face Masks](#) notes there are exemptions to wearing face coverings or face masks.

*“Children do not have to wear a face covering indoors if they are younger than 2 years old.*

### *Health and Accommodations*

*You do not have to wear a face covering if you:*

- *have a medical condition that inhibits your ability to wear a face covering*
- *are unable to put on or remove your face covering without help from someone else*
- *are receiving accommodations according to the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 or the Human Rights Code”*

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## **Student Exemption Procedure**

Parent/Guardian is to contact School Administrator directly.

## **Staff Member Exemption Procedure**

Staff members are to work with their assigned Human Resources Officer to create a plan to ensure physical distancing, no sharing of materials or items, and cleaning and sanitizing of work materials.