



# COVID-19 Mask Guidance and Scaled Mitigation Practices

Recently published guidance from both The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) encourages students over the age of two to wear face coverings at school. The D11 leadership team continually reviews public health orders, community data, and communicates with local and state health officials to determine how to safely return to our schools. Having learned from prevention measures last school year, we remain confident in our ability to open our schools safely and facilitate the highest quality instruction each day with the following D11 safety protocols:

- Federal law mandates anyone riding public transportation, including school buses, be required to wear a mask. For students of any age, and staff riding D11 buses for any purpose (e.g., to and from school, activities, field trips, etc.), in alignment with the Federal mandate, face coverings on all D11 buses are **required**, for those that can medically and physically wear them.
- For students, staff, and visitors in our elementary schools, in alignment with local and state guidance, face coverings are **strongly encouraged** while learning indoors but are not required if community transmission rates remain under 200/100K. El Paso County Case Rates can be found [here](#).
- For students, staff, and visitors at our secondary schools, in alignment with local and state guidance, face coverings are **strongly encouraged** for anyone who is 12+ years and not fully vaccinated but are not required if community transmission rates remain under 250/100K. El Paso County Case Rates can be found [here](#).

We honor and respect the decisions of parents and staff when it comes to facial coverings, whether wearing one or not if transmission levels remain below the designated thresholds identified above. As a district, our schools and central administration offices are expected to be welcoming and supportive of everyone and we will uphold a positive culture throughout the District. Please be informed about vaccinations and safety protocols so we can keep students in class as much as possible this year.

In spaces where masks are required, note these exemptions for when masks should not be worn:

- Children 2 and younger;
- Students napping/sleeping as part of their educational plans;
- Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance; and,
- Any staff or student who cannot medically tolerate a face covering or not physically able to wear and remove one correctly.

## What constitutes a mask?

Masks and face coverings are used interchangeably and are personal protective equipment (PPE) used to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Masks must cover the face and nose made of tightknit cloth fabric, fit snugly but comfortable against the side of the face, can be cleaned or disposed of after use, and in good repair. It is recommended that masks have multiple layers and reusable masks should be laundered daily.

## How to put on and take off your mask safely?

D11 has created a video to help all of us use a mask properly:

<https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/755a39cc-4ec6-4bac-8273-5280a2f10ac7>