

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) & Infection Control Guidance

This guidance outlines policies and procedures for infection control and the care, donning, and doffing of personal protective equipment (PPE) utilized in all Maricopa County K - 12 schools¹. This guidance enables K - 12 schools to respond to the community spread of Coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19).

Background: PPE is designed to protect the wearer and/or those nearby from the spread of illness-causing germs. When used properly, PPE acts as a barrier between infectious materials such as viral contaminants and the wearer's skin, mouth, nose, or eyes (mucous membranes). The barriers have the potential to block transmission of contaminants from blood, bodily fluids, or respiratory secretions.

PPE/Infection Control Items and Their Use

Respirators (N95 respirators)

- A fit-tested N95 respirator should be used by school nurses and delegated staff when they are:
 - Suctioning an open airway (i.e., suctioning of a tracheostomy, oral suctioning with a Yankauer suction tip, "deep suctioning") because this is designated as an [aerosol-generating procedure](#) by CDC.
 - If a fit-tested N95 respirator is not available, a surgical mask can be used as a last resort. Nurses and delegated staff who routinely suction open airways should be fit-tested for an N95 respirator.

Disposable Surgical Masks

- Surgical masks should be used by school nurses and delegated staff when they are:
 - Providing health care procedures or physical assistance for a person **with** symptoms consistent with COVID-19².
 - Providing respiratory-related health care procedures **not including** suctioning of an open airway (i.e., nebulizer treatments) for a person **with or without** symptoms consistent with COVID-19².
 - **Monitoring or supervising** a room designed for isolating students who either screen positive for COVID-19 symptoms at the school entrance or develop COVID-19 symptoms during the day and are waiting for transportation to go home.
- Surgical masks should be used by students or staff members if they:
 - Develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19² prior to going home to isolate.
- Use and disposal of surgical masks:
 - Use surgical masks at the rate of 1-2 masks per day (as long as not contaminated) in order to preserve on-hand supply.
 - If surgical masks are re-used after minimal contact with a symptomatic student, follow CDC guidelines for [optimizing the supply of facemasks](#).

¹Preschools associated with K-12 schools should follow the guidance for Child Care Centers

²Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea. Please see the [CDC website](#) for the most up-to-date list.



- Masks that are soiled, or that sustain exposure to respiratory secretions, should be disposed of after a single use.

Reusable Face Shields

- Face shields provide eye protection and protection against splash contamination.
- When used, face shields should be worn **in addition to** a surgical mask (or N95 respirator) and **cannot substitute** for a surgical mask (or N95 respirator).
- Face shields should be used by school nurses and delegated staff when they are:
 - Monitoring or assisting a **symptomatic person** who is producing respiratory secretions through coughing or lack of control of secretions.
 - Providing an ordered respiratory procedure (i.e., nebulizer treatment, open airway suctioning) for a person **with** symptoms consistent with COVID-19².
- Length of use and disposal of face shields:
 - Reusable face shields should be cleaned after each use following the manufacturer-recommended processes and products. If manufacturer guidelines are unavailable, follow the CDC [guidelines for cleaning face shields](#).
 - With proper maintenance, a face shield may be used for an extended period until the unit becomes damaged, no longer fastens securely, or its visibility is obscured.

Disposable Gowns

- Gowns should be used by school nurses or delegated staff when they are interacting with a person with symptoms consistent with COVID-19² who is producing respiratory droplets or other bodily fluids to a degree that is likely to contaminate the clothing of the caregiver.
- Length of use and disposal:
 - Gowns are rarely needed and should be single-use items due to their probability of becoming soiled.
 - A small supply of gowns should be kept on hand for use in situations discussed above.

Disposable Gloves

- Gloves are routinely provided in schools for health care, food service, and custodial use.
- Gloves should be used by school nurses or delegated staff in healthcare situation where they are interacting with a person with symptoms of COVID-19².
- Wearing gloves is not an acceptable substitute for hand hygiene.
- Glove use should be monitored to inform use rate on future orders.

PPE Wear and Removal (Donning/Doffing)

- All PPE should be utilized in accordance with manufacturer's guidance.
- Personnel should be trained on the proper wear and removal of PPE prior to assessing students or personnel.
- Instruction and training on the donning and doffing of PPE will be accomplished via the manufacturer's direction or [CDC guidance](#).
- Care should be taken to remove PPE in a manner that avoids contamination of the user to the greatest extent possible (i.e. removing a gown with the exposed areas on the inside and not touching contaminated PPE with ungloved hands).

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- Further information on the PPE wear, removal, and care can be found on the CDC's website.

Screening Thermometers (Touchless, Temporal)

- Thermometers may be used by trained staff when they are:
 - Conducting daily screenings at school entrances (although this is not a recommended public health practice).
 - Caring for a student during the school day due to development of symptoms.
 - Completing an assessment of a potentially ill student.
- Preparation of thermometers and ongoing maintenance:
 - Staff using thermometers should review manufacturer's guidelines for use, charging, calibration (if needed), and cleaning.
 - Thermometer lens should be free of dust or debris prior to use.

Infection Control	
Cleaning and Hygiene Items	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
Hand soap Hand sanitizer Cloth face coverings Gloves, when used for food and custodial service	Face shields Surgical masks Gowns Gloves, when used by nurses and delegated staff

*Note: Thermometers support Infection Control

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ATTACHMENT 1

Infection Control Checklist for K-12 Schools

In anticipation of K-12 school facilities reopening for instruction, this checklist reflects predicted items needed for infection control materials and PPE. These documents are intended to inform policy decisions.

*Note: This checklist does not address the routine use of PPE as normally indicated for completion of typical, daily medical procedures for students. This checklist is a sample only. School facilities should develop their own PPE checklist specific to their internal policies and processes.

School Building

- Hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol)
- Hand soap
- Paper towels
- Garbage cans
- Facial tissues

Teachers

- Cloth face coverings
- Hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol)
- Cleaning products ([EPA-registered disinfectants effective against COVID-19](#))
- Facial tissues

Students

- Cloth face coverings

Nurses

- Cloth face coverings
- Surgical masks
- Gowns
- Gloves
- Face shields
- Thermometers (temporal, touchless)
- Cleaning products ([EPA-registered disinfectants effective against COVID-19](#))
- Hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol)

Individual School Staff Delegated by a Nurse to Perform Medical Tasks

- Cloth face coverings
- Surgical masks
- Gowns
- Gloves

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- Face shields
- Thermometers (temporal, touchless)
- Cleaning products ([EPA-registered disinfectants effective against COVID-19](#))
- Hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol)

Custodial Staff

- Cloth face coverings
- Gloves
- Cleaning products ([EPA-registered disinfectants effective against COVID-19](#))
- Hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol)

Nutritional Services Staff

- Cloth face coverings
- Gloves
- Cleaning products ([EPA-registered disinfectants effective against COVID-19](#))
- Hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol)

Bus Drivers

- Cloth face coverings
- Hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol)
- Cleaning products ([EPA-registered disinfectants effective against COVID-19](#))
- Facial tissues
- Garbage can

School Staff Who May Need to Make Home Visits, or Visits to Multiple Schools (e.g. Social Workers, Physical Therapists, Speech Therapists, Instructional Coaches)

- Cloth face coverings
- Hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol)

All Other School Staff (Administrators, Coaches)

- Cloth face coverings
- Hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol)

Person Who Screens Positive for COVID-19 Symptoms On-Site

- Surgical mask

Individual Accompanying or Supervising a Person Who Screens Positive for COVID-19 Symptoms On-Site

- Surgical mask
- Gloves
- Face shields
- Hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol)

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ATTACHMENT 2

Donning & Doffing a Face Mask

Facemask Do's and Don'ts

For Healthcare Personnel

When putting on a facemask

Clean your hands and put on your facemask so it fully covers your mouth and nose.



DO secure the elastic bands around your ears.



DO secure the ties at the middle of your head and the base of your head.

When wearing a facemask, don't do the following:



DON'T wear your facemask under your nose or mouth.



DON'T allow a strap to hang down. DON'T cross the straps.



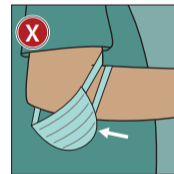
DON'T touch or adjust your facemask without cleaning your hands before and after.



DON'T wear your facemask on your head.



DON'T wear your facemask around your neck.



DON'T wear your facemask around your arm.

When removing a facemask

Clean your hands and remove your facemask touching only the straps or ties.



DO leave the patient care area, then clean your hands with alcohol-based hand sanitizer or soap and water.



DO remove your facemask touching ONLY the straps or ties, throw it away², and clean your hands again.

²If implementing limited-reuse: Facemasks should be carefully folded so that the outer surface is held inward and against itself to reduce contact with the outer surface during storage. Folded facemasks can be stored between uses in a clean, sealable paper bag or breathable container.

Additional information is available about how to safely put on and remove personal protective equipment, including facemasks:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/using-ppe.html>.



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cdc.gov/coronavirus

This graphic and more are available at

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/using-ppe.html>

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