

# WHEN DO I NEED TO USE A FACE COVERING



Everyone (including children aged 5 and up) is required to wear a face covering unless they are exempt, when using public transport or when entering shops or other retail outlets such as shopping centres and hairdressers. **They do not provide significant protection for the wearer, they are beneficial in reducing transmission of the virus but they are not a substitute for good hand hygiene and physical distancing.**



Face coverings should not generally be required in classrooms or other learning and teaching environments.

Face coverings should be worn by adults where they **cannot keep 2m** distance and are interacting face-to-face for a sustained period (about 15 minutes or more) with other adults and/or children and young people.

Face coverings should also be worn in the following circumstances (except where an adult or child/young person is exempt from wearing a covering):

- where adults and young people in secondary schools (including special schools) are moving about the school in corridors and confined communal areas (including toilets) where physical distancing is particularly difficult to maintain; and
- in line with the current arrangements for public transport, where adults and children and young people aged 5 and over are travelling on dedicated school transport.

You do need to wear a face covering on public transport and when entering a shop or retail outlet without a reasonable excuse such as health or equality grounds. If you enter these premises without a face covering you will be breaking the law and could be fined.





This means if you are going out for lunch you would need to follow these rules and allow extra time for hand hygiene and secure storage of your face covering. Remember you still need to follow social distancing and shop queues may take a lot longer than before.

**A face covering is** a covering of the mouth and nose made of cloth or other textiles and through which you can breathe, for example a scarf.

Adults in schools, including at gates and outdoor school grounds, should not need to wear face coverings as long as they can maintain 2m distancing.

Please be aware that some children and young people may need support in understanding why adults are wearing face coverings.






When wearing a face covering, please be mindful of:

-  A face covering should NOT have to be constantly removed (on and off). You either wear it or not for the activity at close range, and then once you are finished with the task, it should be removed and stored appropriately.
-  Communicating with ASN, hearing impaired and ESOL pupils who are acquiring English, as a face mask can make communication harder due to them relying in part on being able to see someone's face or lips clearly.
-  Some children relying on visual cues for learning and understanding.
-  Individuals who may not be able to handle and wear face coverings as directed should not wear them as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission by constantly touching it.

## Guidance for face coverings

### How do I wear, store and dispose of my face covering safely?

Using face coverings incorrectly can spread germs. For this reason, it is important to properly wear, store and dispose of face coverings by doing the following:

-  Sanitise hands for 20 seconds with soap and water, or use an alcohol based hand sanitiser, every time you put on and take off your face covering. If you are unable to clean your hands, be very careful not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
-  Do not put face coverings where others can touch them or where germs trapped in your face covering can touch other surfaces, such as counter tops or your kitchen table.
-  Do not throw your face covering loose in a bag or backpack. Keep a plastic bag with you to store your face covering if you are taking it off in the classroom.
-  Once home ensure you wash your face covering at 60 degrees centigrade.
-  If you are using a disposable face covering, please ensure you dispose of it properly after use. You should place it in a plastic bag and put it in a bin. Do not dispose of face coverings on the streets.

### How often do I need to wash my face covering?

If you are using a cloth face covering, we recommend washing it after every use at 60 degree centigrade. The face covering should be fully dry before using again. People should have a few face coverings so they can rotate for washing.

### What type of material should my face covering be made out of?

Either a cloth or other textile is fine but it has to cover your nose and mouth. Please do not use surgical or medical masks. It is essential that we save health care workers masks for our health care system.

If you require a surgical or medical mask or carry out a task this would be provided as defined PPE requirements.

## Provision of face coverings

As face coverings are required in wider society, it is expected that parents will provide their child with a face covering if they travel on school transport or attend secondary school.

School will only provide a face covering in exceptional circumstances or if a child has forgotten theirs.

Face coverings will be viewed in the same way as school uniform with support sought from pupils and parents to ensure compliance.

