

## FACE MASK FAQ

### Why are face masks beneficial?

- COVID- 19 is spread between people who are in close contact when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
- Some people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus.
- Face masks prevent germs from the nose and mouth from entering the air and infecting other people.
- Face masks also reduce wearers' exposure to infectious droplets and protect them from infection.

### Who should wear a face mask?

- All students, school staff and visitors must wear a face mask inside a school and on school buses, regardless of their vaccination status. Persons do not need to wear a face mask if they have a documented disability that makes wearing a face mask unsafe, if they are eating or drinking, if they under the age of two and/or if they are alone in a private space.
- All staff and visitors to BCPS offices must wear a face mask when community transmission rates are within the CDC categories of substantial or high, except when they are alone in a private space, eating or drinking, or under the age of two.
- Persons who are not fully vaccinated are encouraged to wear a face mask in crowded outdoor spaces.

### What types of face masks may be used?

- A face mask should cover the nose and mouth.
- The face mask should fit snugly to the face and stay in place without requiring the user to hold it or adjust it frequently.
- A face mask may be factory made or hand sewn and must be appropriate for school.
- If a face mask has a valve, a double mask must be worn to provide protection from the open valve.

### Should students or staff be wearing double masks?

- Persons may choose to wear double masks. It is not recommended that a person wear two disposable masks.
- Double masks can be used to help with the fit. The top mask often helps seal the bottom mask to the face and therefore provides better protection.



- If a person chooses to wear a double mask, they should be sure they can see and breath easily.

**Does wearing a face mask cause a person to breathe in CO2 or have their oxygen level drop?**

- No. Numerous professionals, including healthcare providers have worn masks for years with no adverse effects.
- Carbon dioxide is a very small particle and will pass through the mask. It does not build up to harmful levels.
- During strenuous exercise, masks may become uncomfortable and may be removed.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/effective-masks.html>