

# Employer Health & Safety Requirements for Schools

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# Introductions

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# Housekeeping Items



- The recording of this webinar will be posted to OSPI's website soon.



- Please post your questions using the Q&A feature.
- Questions will be collected and answered through follow-up communication.

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# Purpose of the Guidance

- General guidance to protect employees in common school scenarios under existing conditions.
- For school districts as they develop required COVID-19 safety plans and procedures.
- Guidance focus is on PPE, assuming other required safeguards (cleaning, hygiene, etc.) are present.

\*The guidance does not replace local decisions based on specific conditions.

# How the Guidance was Created

- Developed by a workgroup with representatives from OSPI, DOH, L&I, the Governor's Office, local superintendents, and labor organizations.
  - Public School Employees of Washington
  - Washington Education Association
  - Washington Association of School Administrators
- The workgroup met from August – September 2020.

# Key Points

- The typical instructional setting is classified as **low risk**.
  - There are other scenarios where the risk is lower or higher.
- Low risk PPE: Cloth face covering.
- Medium risk PPE: Face shield + cloth face covering, surgical mask, dust mask, KN95 mask, or KN90 mask.
- High or extremely high risk PPE: N95 respirator or equivalent.
  - If an employer cannot reasonably obtain an N95 or equivalent, they may use a face shield + an FDA-approved surgical mask, procedural mask, or a KN95 mask until a respirator can be obtained.

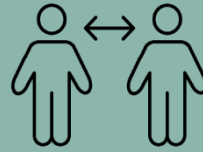
# Measures That Work Together to Keep Students & Staff Safe



**Masking**



**Hand  
Washing**



**Physical  
Distancing**



**Disinfecting  
Surfaces**



**Screening**

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# Negligible Transmission Risk

## **Examples**

- When working alone in a classroom or office
- Band and choir (remote only)

## **Mask Requirements**

- A mask is not required



# Low Transmission Risk

## **Examples**

- General group instructional setting
- In a classroom or office; 6 ft. distance easily maintained
- Food service; 6 ft. distance easily maintained

## **Mask Requirements**

- Cloth face covering that fully covers the mouth and nose
- OR–**
- Face shield with a cloth extension attached to the entire edge of the shield

# Low Transmission Risk Requirement

## Cloth Face Covering



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# Medium Transmission Risk

## Examples

- Small group instructional setting; 6 ft. distance
- Transportation (driver & staff); 6 ft. distance mostly maintained
- Food service; 6 ft. distance mostly maintained

## Mask Requirements

- Face shield with a cloth face covering

**–OR–**

- Non-cloth disposables: dust mask, KN95 or other filtering facepiece respirators, or non-FDA approved procedural masks

# Medium Transmission Risk: Examples



From left to right: Face shield with cloth face mask, dust mask, surgical mask

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# High Transmission Risk

## Examples

- Small group instructional setting; without 6 ft. of distance, sustained close contact
- Transportation; without 6 ft. of distance, sustained close contact

## Mask Requirements

- Half- or full-face respirator with filter **–OR–** powered-air purifying respirator with filter
- **–OR–**
- Industrial use N95, R95, or P95 or non-NIOSH approved filtering facepiece respirator
- **–OR–**
- Face shield **plus** an FDA-approved KN95 mask, surgical mask, dust mask, or procedural mask (if a respirator cannot be reasonably obtained) October 5, 2020

# High Transmission Risk: Examples



From left to right: N95 filtering respirator, face shield with surgical mask, elastomeric half-facepiece with particulate (HEPA) filters

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# Extremely High Transmission Risk

## Examples

- Health/isolation room

## Mask Requirements

- FDA-approved surgical mask or N95 filtering respirator
- OR–
- Elastomeric respirator with filter
- OR–
- Face shield **plus** a KN95 mask, surgical mask, dust mask, or procedural mask (if a respirator cannot be reasonably obtained)

# Extremely High Transmission Risk: Examples



From left to right: N95 mask, surgical N95 filtering respirator, elastomeric half-facepiece with particulate (HEPA) filters

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# Questions

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**With specific questions about a situation in your district, please request consultative services from L&I:**

<https://lni.wa.gov/safety-health/preventing-injuries-illnesses/request-consultation/>

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# Thank You!

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Washington Office of Superintendent of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**



*Washington State Department of*  
**Health**



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