

Hampton City Schools
Protocol for the Use of Medical Masks
While in School

- I. Medical need for mask use during school hours
 - a. If a student or employee is immunosuppressed or medically fragile and advised by a physician to wear a mask, the following things must be provided:
 - i. Any student or employee that requires a mask due to being immunosuppressed or other medical condition will need a physician's order. It needs to state an expiration date.
 - ii. Along with the order, a note stating the student or employee may be in school during that time.
 - iii. Masks will be provided by the student's parents or by the employee, not Health Services (type of mask and frequency of replacement differs by condition).
 - iv. Parent conference with the school nurse so she is aware of the needs of the student while in school, OR for employees, conference with the principal and school nurse.
 - b. The nurse will maintain the paperwork for the duration of the order.

- II. Addressing influenza (flu) and the request for mask use during school hours
 - a. Per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), adults can shed influenza virus 1 day before symptoms appear and up to approximately 5 to 7 days after onset of illness; thus, the selective use of masks (e.g., in proximity to a known symptomatic person) many **not** effectively limit transmission. Young children, immunocompromised, persons of age, and critically ill students/patients with influenza can shed influenza viruses in the respiratory tract for prolonged periods. Moreover, because no single intervention can provide complete protection against influenza virus transmission, school staff, students, and parents should concentrate on personal protective measures such as:
 - 1. Covering their nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing.
 - 2. Use of tissues to contain respiratory secretions and, after use, to dispose of them in the nearest waste receptacle.
 - 3. Maintaining good hand hygiene – handwashing with soap and water is the most important. When this is not available, use of alcohol or non-alcohol based hand rub can be used but should be followed by handwashing with soap and water when possible.
 - 4. Increasing water intake throughout the day. It is recommended not to drink from water fountains (while in peak flu season) within the school due to students touching the button for water and can put their mouth on the faucet further promoting spread. We recommend bringing in a water bottle sealed and can refill as needed throughout the day.

5. The school nurse, at her discretion, can have a student with symptoms of the flu, while waiting to be picked up by parent, dawn a mask to decrease spreading of germs to students in the clinic for other medical needs.
 - b. Persons who are diagnosed with influenza by a physician or who have a febrile respiratory illness during a period of increased influenza activity should remain home until the fever is resolved for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medications) and the cough is resolving, to avoid exposing other students and employees.
 - c. Health Services monitors absences and specifically related to flu on a daily basis. If a rise in absences occurs in a school, the principal, nurse and custodial staff are made aware and extra cleaning measures take place.
- III. Asymptomatic students and employees
 - a. Per CDC, no recommendations can be made for mask use in the schools by asymptomatic persons (someone without fever or cold symptoms), including those at high risk for complications, to prevent exposure to influenza viruses.