

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

MASKS for SCHOOL

Mask wearing for children in school for Grades 4-12:

- Grade 4 to 12 students and staff must wear [masks](#) where physical distancing cannot be maintained, including on school buses and shared areas such as hallways.
- Masks are not required while students are seated in the classroom during instruction if following the physical distancing guidance for schools.
- Masks are required in the classroom when close contact between students, or students and staff, is occurring. Masks should be used for the duration of this activity.
- [Exemptions](#) will be made for students and staff who are unable to wear a mask due to medical or other needs.
- Mask use for Kindergarten to Grade 3 students is optional.* (Some schools may require.)
- All students and staff will get 2 reusable masks. Government will distribute more than 1.6 million masks to 740,000 students and 90,000 staff.
- School staff will get one reusable face shield to use in schools at their discretion. A mask must still be worn while wearing a face shield.

Masks for Children in Care:

Many municipalities have passed by-laws requiring face covering or mask wearing in public indoor spaces and/or public transit. Information on specific bylaws, including exemptions, can be found on the respective municipality's website, e.g. [City of Edmonton](#) , [City of Calgary](#). Staff and caregivers should be aware of the applicable by-laws. Please check your local municipality's website regularly as these bylaws change frequently.

DO NOT use the Government of Alberta (GoA) procurement system to order masks for children and youth in care. Masks for children and youth in care will be sourced outside of the current GoA procurement system.

Children two years old and up to Grade 4

CI will reimburse the cost of up to five (5) reusable cloth masks for each child in care over the age of two and up to Grade 4. The cost is not to exceed \$15.00 per mask.

Children in Grades 4-12

For children in Grades 4-12 who receive two (2) reusable cloth masks at school, CI will reimburse the cost of up to an additional three (3) reusable cloth masks not to exceed \$15.00 cost per mask. This means children in Grades 4-12 will have five (5) reusable cloth masks, one for each school day.

SFAA, SIL, Others not elsewhere covered

As above for children in Grades 4-12, CI will reimburse the cost of three (3) reusable cloth masks not to exceed \$15.00 cost per mask.

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Requests for Exceptions

To meet specific needs of a child or youth, caseworkers can approve exceptions to the above cost or number limits or for the use of disposable masks over reusable masks. This includes replacing lost or damaged masks.

Requests for exceptions must be discussed with the case team. The caseworker will make a determination if the exception will be allowed and the costs covered.

Reimbursement

CI will reimburse caregivers for masks purchased for children in care through submission of a Child Maintenance Invoice on the child's file. Caseworkers may approve additional mask purchase if loss or breakage occurs. The same cost limits apply. CSD agencies to follow their usual process for child-related expenses.

Masks for Caregivers:

Caregivers have already received disposable masks. Where masks are mandated in public indoor spaces and/or on transit, caregivers are responsible to purchase or secure their own masks. As members of the public, caregivers would be required to have masks in any event.

Reusable Cloth Mask Requirements: <https://www.alberta.ca/masks.aspx>

Make sure cloth masks:

- have multiple layers of fabric
- fits securely against your face
- allows for clear breathing
- can be laundered

Making a mask

There are many ways to make a cloth mask. [Health Canada provides instructions](#) with sew and no-sew options.

- Choose a fabric or cloth that can withstand frequent cycles through washing and drying machines
- Use multiple layers of tight woven fabric – 4-layers is optimal.
- Use a combination of fabrics such as a high thread count cotton (e.g. 600-thread count pillowcases and cotton sheets) with spun bond polypropylene or polyester.
- Use different fabrics or colours for each side of the mask. This helps you to know which side faces your mouth and which side faces out.

How to care for your cloth mask

- Store masks in a sealed and clean storage bag and place in a dry area of your home.
- Put cloth masks directly into the washing machine or in a bag that can be emptied into the washing machine. Throw out the bag after you have used it to store masks.
- Launder with other items using a hot cycle, and then dry thoroughly.
- Inspect the mask for damage prior to reuse.