

PPE Recommendations in Schools

For non-healthcare settings the use of PPE should be considered based on a risk assessment of the task, the individual and environment. Any Government of Ontario guidance documents for sector-specific job duties should be followed. Public Health Ontario has developed a [Technical Brief](#) outlining minimum expectations for PPE for care of individuals with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

Key Recommendations:

- N95 respirators are not indicated for use in the school setting (unless otherwise indicated as PPE for protection against workplace hazards).
- Medical masks and eye protection (i.e. face shield) will be provided for all teachers and other staff of school boards. All school-based staff will be required to wear masks, with reasonable exceptions for medical conditions.
- Droplet and contact precautions are recommended for the care of someone suspected or confirmed with COVID-19.
- Practice physical distancing of 2 metres (6 ft).
- Practice, and increase the frequency of, proper hand hygiene.

Staff Role/Situation	Type of PPE (and/or face covering)
Teachers, Office administration, Principal, Vice Principal	<input type="checkbox"/> All school-based staff are required to wear medical masks. <input type="checkbox"/> Staff who are in close contact (i.e., physical distancing is not possible) with students who are not wearing masks both indoors and outdoors must wear: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Medical masks <input type="checkbox"/> Eye protection (e.g., face shield or goggles)
EAs and specialized staff for students with special needs	
Counsellors/Child and Youth Workers	
Supervision staff (e.g. for various cohorts, before/after school supervision) and Occasional teachers	
School staff providing care for a sick child (suspect case of COVID-19)	<input type="checkbox"/> Droplet and Contact Precautions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Medical mask <input type="checkbox"/> Eye protection (e.g., face shield or goggles) <input type="checkbox"/> Gown <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves
School staff cleaning up bodily fluids with the risk of splashing/soiling of clothing	<input type="checkbox"/> Droplet and Contact Precautions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Medical mask <input type="checkbox"/> Eye protection (e.g., face shield or goggles) <input type="checkbox"/> Gown <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves

Staff Role/Situation	Type of PPE (and/or face covering)
Symptomatic student (suspect case of COVID-19)	<input type="checkbox"/> Medical mask (if tolerated)
Custodial and caretaker staff (no direct care or close contact with students or other staff)	<input type="checkbox"/> Practice physical distancing of 2 meters (6 ft) <input type="checkbox"/> Medical mask <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves, as required (as per manufacturer's instructions)
Cook, food handler	
Maintenance staff	
Bus driver	
Essential visitors	<input type="checkbox"/> Medical mask <input type="checkbox"/> Practice physical distancing of 2 meters (6ft)