



## **Malvern Preparatory School Face Covering Policy and Information for Students**

Over the last several months, Malvern Preparatory School's Administrative Response Team in tandem with the Safety and Wellness Committee spent significant time gathering resources, researching, and consulting with a variety of partners in preparation for when our students return to campus. In accordance with the [PA Department of Health](#), along with recommendations per the Center for Disease Control, Malvern Preparatory School aims to create guidelines to maintain the health and safety of students and therefore all members of the community.

**As a result, all students are required to wear a clean face mask (disposable or reusable) that covers his mouth and nose while inside buildings. While gaiters are better than nothing at all, we are recommending that students not wear them as studies are finding them not as effective as a face mask. If you plan to use your own face mask, the mask must be plain, with no words, pictorial or symbolic representations that may be considered controversial and/or would detract from the orderly environment or mission of our school.**

The following are more detailed expectations regarding face-coverings (PA Department of Health):

- Outdoors and/or unable to consistently maintain a distance of six feet from individuals who are not members of their household;
- In any indoor location where members of the public are generally permitted;
- Waiting for, or riding on, public transportation or while in a taxi, private car service or ride-sharing vehicle;

The following are exceptions to the policy:

- Students who wish to eat or drink may remove their mask to do so, provided they are situated six feet away from others, perform the necessary hand hygiene and replace the mask when they are done.
- Students who cannot wear a mask due to a medical condition, including those with respiratory issues that impede breathing, mental health condition, or disability. For further accommodations, please reach out to the school nurse.



The following notes are of high importance:

- This policy is an addition to our previous communications (COVID-19 Safety Guidelines) regarding preventing the spread of COVID-19. We ask that you continue to practice social distancing even when wearing a mask.
- This policy is subject to change with the evolution of COVID-19. All amendments will be reviewed by the Leadership Team and Pandemic Response Team prior to implementation.

The policy described is created and put forth with thoughtful consideration to ensure the health and safety of Malvern Preparatory School. Further, and when in doubt, use your best judgement and common sense when wearing face-coverings amid our community by keeping in mind the phrase, “**my mask protects you, your mask protects me.**” The proper use of wearing and removing your mask will continue to support efforts towards a healthy community. For your review, please visit [CDC Guidelines](#).

#### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

- **Will the school provide face shield and/or face masks?**
  - Yes, one face mask will be provided to students.
- **What if I forget my face shield and/or face mask?**
  - Please go directly to the Nurse’s Office or Visitors Center while making the best attempt to cover your nose and mouth. There will be disposable face coverings available.
- **What if I have a medical condition that precludes me from wearing a face covering?**
  - Please contact the school

#### **Some tips when cleaning your face masks:**

- Launder masks by completing these steps:
- Remove detachable parts like interior filters or elastic ear bands from a folded scarf or bandana before washing.
- Use a mesh laundry bag to reduce entanglement with other clothes during machine washing.
- Set machine water temperature to high or use water that is 140° Fahrenheit or higher.
- Use your washer’s “sanitize” cycle if it has one.



- Add a detergent that contains disinfectant or bleach to ensure you're killing as many germs as possible.
- If washing by hand, prepare a bleach solution of five tablespoons bleach per gallon of water, soak for at least five minutes and rinse thoroughly.
- Dry masks on the highest dryer setting or use direct sunlight to dry masks.
- Because household dryer temperatures rarely reach the threshold temperature you need for disinfection, consider adding disinfectant dryer sheets or dryer sanitizers.
- Ultra-violet light from the sun can kill up to 99.99% of pathogens on the sun-facing surface of a mask if it is left in the bright sun during the middle of a day for at least one hour. It is best to allow masks to be exposed to the sun and heat for an entire day — flipping it over mid-day. Hang dry the masks or construct a dedicated portable box or surface for solar disinfection.

#### **Face mask hygiene etiquette**

- To further reduce risk of infection, here are some hygiene etiquette tips:
- Always wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before you put on your mask.
- Make sure your mask is facing the right direction, so your face is not touching the mask exterior.
- Wear your mask snugly over both your nose and mouth.
- Try not to touch the mask while you're wearing it.
- A disposable mask should not be worn more than one day.