

Requirements for Face Coverings Policy

The Ministry of Education has mandated that students from grade 4-12 be required to wear masks. PCS will follow that mandate. Although exempt from wearing masks, JK- gr.3 parents may request to have their child opt in to wear one.



- ▶ Students from grade 4-8 are required to bring a face covering to school every day and wear their face covering while indoors. Face coverings may be:
 - ▶ *Non-medical masks*
 - ▶ *Cloth Masks*
 - ▶ *Neck Buffs*
 - ▶ *Mingle Masks (theminglemask.ca)*
 - Mingle masks are clear coverings that allow a more visible and comfortable style of protection.
- ▶ Parents may choose to have their child exempt from wearing face coverings. An exemption form will need to be completed by the parent. This form will be available on the RenWeb Family Portal.

Pickering Christian School is aware of the controversy regarding children wearing masks for extended times. The Sick Kids Hospital document (pg12) states that this is a complex matter. The experts that produced this document were not all in agreement with various aspects. What they overwhelmingly agreed upon was that:

- ▶ *The use of Non- Medical Masks (NMM) - when transmission in the community is low, the use of NMMs throughout the entire day should not be mandatory for elementary students.(pg12)*
- ▶ *As it is difficult to wear a NMM for a prolonged period of time, efforts should be made to ensure distancing in the classroom, such that NMMs do not need to be worn constantly.(pg12)*
- ▶ *As well, it is important to try to find periods of the day where NMMs can be safely removed.(pg11)*

Based on this, PCS will make every effort to provide opportunities for all children to safely remove their mask. These times will vary between grades but all teachers are instructed to structure their daily activities to maximize the times masks are not needed to be worn.