



# ALMADINA LANGUAGE CHARTER ACADEMY

## Read and Write, Reach the Height

Office of the Superintendent

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### **Mask Protocol**

Masks are an important way to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19, especially when people are indoors and physical distancing is a challenge.

This procedure is supported by the legislation contained in:

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/cmoh-order-33-2020-2020-covid-19-response>

#### **Wearing a mask:**

All students in Grades KG–9 will be required to wear a mask on the school bus.

All staff and students in Grades KG-9 will be required to wear a mask when physical distancing at school and in the classroom is not possible, as one way to help reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

Every student and staff member will be provided with two reusable masks, provided by Alberta Education in the first week of school. Students should always carry an extra mask in their backpacks in the event their mask becomes compromised (damaged or damp). It is a recommended practice to use a paper bag as these are breathable.

Parents should review and practice the appropriate use of a mask, putting it on, taking it off and hand hygiene. Staff will review this at school and provide additional guidance as needed.

If someone forgets their mask, the school will ensure there are disposable masks available for short term use.

## Mask implementation:

<p><b>Who has to wear a mask?</b></p>	<p>Almadina has extended the mandated A.H.S. guidelines to all staff and students in KG-Grade 9 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-On the school bus</li> <li>-In shared areas of the school (halls, washrooms)</li> <li>-whenever 2 m distancing cannot be observed</li> <li>-contractors, including caretaking staff and I.T. team</li> <li>-visitors (by appointment)</li> <li>-service providers (W.E.P./S.L.P./O.T.)</li> </ul>
<p><b>When can a mask be removed?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-When 2 m distancing can be observed</li> <li>-When a mask break is implemented with other safety measures in place</li> <li>-While eating or drinking (other safety measures in place)</li> <li>-When a cohort is at recess outside (observe 2 m distancing)</li> <li>-Engaged in D.P.A. (observe 2 m distancing)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Exemptions for wearing a mask</b></p>	<p><b>Exemption Criteria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Students who are unable to place, use, or remove a non-medical face mask (due to age, developmental or physical reasons).</li> <li>-Medical condition or disability (mental or physical) Ex. Severe anxiety, PTSD, severe breathing difficulties</li> <li>-Students who cannot wear a mask for any grounds protected under the Alberta Human Rights Act (e.g. religious grounds)</li> </ul> <p><i>Decision-Maker:</i>  <u>Principal</u>          The principal may document request for accommodation/exemption          Principal and parent sign off on this request</p> <p><b>If a medical note is provided it will be placed on the Student Health Plan</b></p> <p><b>Partial Exemption - Accommodations may be suggested such as:</b>          *Student can wear the mask for some periods; requires more frequent and/or longer periods of non-mask use</p>

	<p>*Student can wear it in hallways, buses, bathrooms and other shared spaces but can remove it in class and student can be physically distanced further away from other students</p> <p>* Other protective measures have been amplified and used e.g. barrier; like desk shields</p> <p>*Use of face shields</p> <p>*Consider the configuration of room so students can physically distance and participate fully in learning and classroom activities</p> <p>*Cohorting and physical distancing</p> <p>*Consider the composition of class, other measures such as desk shields for all students</p> <p>*Increase hand hygiene and other measures in the classroom</p>
<b>How often should masks be cleaned</b>	Masks should be sanitized on a daily basis.

**Mask breaks will be scheduled by staff when physical distancing can be observed or when outside and other risk mitigation strategies are in place.**

**Mask breaks:**

**Staff and students should review how to include a mask break (physical distancing is in place)**

**Short term mask break or mask storage:**

- Both sides of the mask are contaminated.
- The inside is contaminated by the wearer.
- The outside facing of the mask is contaminated by everyone else.

**Anyone taking a short term mask break should:**

1. Use hand hygiene (sanitize)
2. ONLY use the ear loops to handle the mask, never touch the front of the mask, if you do, you must complete hand hygiene again
3. Put the mask (outside facing down) on a paper towel. The outside facing part of the mask is highly contaminated so whatever it touches can potentially become contaminated.

**Longer term mask break and storage of mask in a paper bag:**

1. See video

<https://safeyoutube.net/w/afcX>

### **When to change your mask:**

Whenever a cloth mask is compromised (it becomes damp or damaged), you should change it.

If a disposable mask becomes damp or damaged, it can be put in a garbage can. Only handle the mask by the ear loops. Practise hand hygiene whenever handling your mask.

### **How to care for and launder your cloth mask:**

- Always have more than one mask with in the event your mask becomes damp or damaged
- You can launder your mask, similar to clothing on a hot water cycle

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-ncov-2019-staff-faq.pdf>

### **Moving forward with our mask protocol:**

Implementing a mask protocol can be challenging. Staff will continue to provide students with the necessary coaching, guidance and encouragement to support using a face mask. Current science supports the use of face masks as one measure to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Almadina Language Charter Academy continues to emphasize our collective responsibility in ensuring safety for all students and staff.

**Updated September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020**

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