



Details on Cloth Face Coverings Being Supplied for all K-12 Public School Students, Teachers, and Staff

JULY 27, 2020

The evidence continues to show that wearing a cloth face covering is the most critical tool we have in our arsenal to protect against the spread of COVID-19. This is why on July 14, 2020, DHHS updated the state's public health guidance for K-12 schools to include that all K – 12th grade students, teachers, staff and adult visitors wear cloth face coverings, unless the person (or family member, for a student) states that an exception applies, or the person is eating, drinking, or strenuously exercising. Face coverings must be worn by K-12 students, and all teachers, staff, and adult visitors inside school buildings and anywhere on school grounds, including outside. Face coverings will also be required while traveling on buses or other school transportation vehicles.

To support meeting these requirements, the state is providing five cloth face coverings for all K-12 public school students, teachers, and staff. In addition, the state has also provided "starter packs" of personal protective equipment (PPE) to public schools that included a two-month supply of thermometers, surgical masks, face shields and gowns for school nurses and delegated staff who provide health care to students.

North Carolina Emergency Management is purchasing the cloth face coverings for all public school units. The three layer, cotton, reusable face coverings, manufactured by Hanes (see picture below), will be shipped directly by the vendor (Grainger) to public school units. The cloth face coverings come in a "universal size" with a height of 5-1/4" and width of 7-1/4", which falls within the [Johns Hopkins recommended measurements](#) for children. If the face coverings are too large for very young children, schools are encouraged to tie the ear loops so that the face coverings will not hang off the side of the face and chin.

The face coverings will be shipped to the same address used for shipping the "starter packs" of PPE in June. The cloth face coverings come in packs of five, which is the recommended quantity per teacher, staff, and student in the [NCDHHS StrongSchoolsNC Infection Control and PPE Guidance \(K-12\)](#). The state has ordered one package of five cloth face coverings for each student, teacher, and staff member based on the following data from NCDPI:

- Allotted ADM for the 2019-20 school year;
- Count of full-time staff employed by the public school unit during the 2019-20 school year;
- Estimated student enrollment and staff counts for new charter schools opening for the 2020-21 school year.



Hanes Face Covering