CATHOLIC EDUCATION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# FAQs

### Why should my child wear a face mask?

The Chief Health Officer has implemented the wearing of a face mask as an additional physical barrier to COVID-19, to protect you, your child and your community during the current High Caseload environment.

### How long will this be a requirement?

The Chief Health Officer will advise when this is no longer a requirement.

### When is my child required to wear a face mask at school?

All students in Years 3 and above must wear a mask indoors at school at all times and outdoors where physical distancing is not possible, unless:

- The person has a medical certificate issued by a registered medical practitioner confirming a physical, developmental or mental illness, condition or disability which makes wearing a face covering inappropriate;

- Communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing, and visibility of the mouth is essential for communication;

- The person is engaged in physical activity, including physical education classes and organised sport;

- The person is consuming food, drink or medicine;

- Staff are providing teaching or instructions to students; however, staff are encouraged to wear masks even when teaching, where possible.

### What type of face mask should I use?

There are two types of face masks you can use: cloth masks and surgical masks.

- Cloth masks are made of washable fabric and can be re-used.

- Surgical masks are single use masks and cannot be washed or re-used.

### Where can I get a face mask?

You can purchase cloth masks or surgical masks from chemists, hardware stores and other shops or online, or you can make your own.

### How do I put on a mask correctly?

1. Clean your hands with soap and water or hand sanitiser before you put on your mask.

2. Hold the mask by its tapes or loops, then tie the mask around your head or put the loops around your ears.

3. Make sure the mask completely covers your mouth and nose, and that there are no gaps between your face and the mask. If you are using a surgical mask, press the nose piece around your nose.

Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth or the front of the mask while wearing it.

If the mask gets soiled or damp, replace it with a new one.

### How do I take off a mask correctly?

1. Clean your hands with soap and hand sanitiser before you take off your mask.

2. Take the mask off from behind your head by pulling the tapes or loops straightforward and moving the mask away from your face. Do not touch the front of the mask.

3. If you are using a surgical mask, cut the loops and throw the mask in the bin. If you are using a cloth mask, put it straight in the laundry or store used face masks in a plastic bag until you can wash them.

4. Clean your hands with soap and water or hand sanitiser after you take off your mask and throw it away or store it to wash.

### When is it safe to take my face mask off?

You can take off your mask once you are away from other people.

### Can I re-use my face mask?

You should not re-use surgical masks.

You can wash and re-use cloth masks. It is a good idea to have at least two, so you will always have a clean one available.

### How do I wash my cloth mask?

Cloth masks can be washed in the washing machine with other clothes, or hand-washed using soap and the warmest appropriate water setting for the cloth.

### Can I wear a face shield instead of a mask?

Face shields may be easier to wear for some people. If face shields are used, ensure they cover your mouth, nose, the sides of your face and below your chin. Reusable face shields should be cleaned and disinfected after each use. Disposable face shields should only be worn once, and thrown in the bin.