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When Classmates Have a Mask Exemption

What if my student is in a classroom with a student who has a mask exemption?

There may be circumstance in which student(s) in your child's school may be medically exempt from wearing a mask or face covering. In these unique circumstances, additional safeguards will be put in place to protect students and staff.

Additional measures will depend on the unique circumstances of the student's need, health or disability-related concerns, and classroom environment, but may include:

- The Department of Health states that in rare circumstances when a cloth face covering cannot be worn, students and staff may use alternatives, such as face shields. If used, face shields should extend below the chin, wrap around to the ears, and have no gap at the forehead.
- Using cloth extensions that can be attached to a student's face shield.
- Increasing focus on social distancing.
- Opening of classroom windows.
- Adding portable HEPA filters in selected locations.
- Increasing frequency of cleaning surfaces.
- Increasing hand washing frequency.
- Providing services in areas that maximize airflow, such as near an open window.
- Reducing the number of students in the classroom.
- Alternating schedules.
- Providing related services to an individual instead of in a group setting.

Questions

If you have any questions about the mask exemption process, please contact:

- [Mark Herndon, mherndon@gcdsd.org](mailto:mherndon@gcdsd.org) for general education, students with current 504 Civil Rights Protections or students with a current IEP.
- If you are concerned with your student wearing additional PPE in order to communicate with or be in close contact to a student with a mask waiver, please contact your student's teacher.