








Mask Types	Advantages	Disadvantages	Recommendation
N95 Respirators	Excellent filtration of droplets and most aerosols-sized particles	Difficult to wear for extended periods, need specific fit-testing and medical clearance, supply chain issues, cannot be easily cleaned	 Not recommended for school use (<i>except for nurses and aerosol-generating procedures</i>)
KN95 Facemasks	Very good capture of respiratory droplets, widely available for ordering	Wide variation in sizing and quality control, tend to run large and may not fit children well, may be difficult to wear for very long periods, cannot be easily cleaned	 Recommended for use in schools for older children
Surgical/ Procedure Style	Good to very good capture of respiratory droplets, widely available for ordering, relatively light weight	May not hold up to repeated use, cannot be easily cleaned, may have some quality control issues	 Recommended for use in schools, especially as a stockpile for schools to hand out when students do not have a face mask
Cloth Masks	Good to very good capture of respiratory droplets, widely available for purchase, can be constructed and personalized at home, fabric very breathable, can be easily cleaned	Generally require multiple layers of fabric, ear loops may irritate after extended use, may need to try multiple styles to find appropriate fit, fit may change with laundering	 Recommended for use in schools for all ages
Neck Gaiters	Very breathable and light weight, some moisture-wicking, very personalizable, widely available, many sizes and styles, eliminates ear loop irritation, stays on neck when not in use	May or may not provide adequate droplet control depending on fit and material used, may need to be layered to provide adequate source control	 May be adequate if layered (folded over nose and mouth multiple times) and sized appropriately so fabric is not stretched extensively, better for smaller children where bunching of fabric may be more protective
Bandanas	Widely available, inexpensive, allows mask to be tied instead of using ear loops, light weight and breathable	May or may not provide adequate droplet control depending on the weight of material used, may need to be layered to provide adequate source control	 May be adequate if layered and positioned tightly at the chin, material should be washed/ dried to tighten the fabric weave
Exhalation Valve Masks	Can be found in many styles of masks, may add some comfort, allows relief of air pressure upon exhalation	May allow some droplets to escape through the mask, may not close tightly when breathing in, cannot be easily cleaned	 Unknown whether or not exhalation valves in masks increase the risk of spread of COVID-19, better than no mask at all but masks with valves currently not recommended for school settings