

## Department of Elementary & Secondary Education and Department of Public Health

### **What is DESE's guidance on appropriate mask wearing?**

At this time, per [DESE's Implementation of Mask Requirement document](#), all individuals in schools - including vaccinated individuals – must wear masks.<sup>[1]</sup> Individuals' masks must completely cover their nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of their face without gaps. The CDC has published [additional helpful guidelines](#) on proper mask wearing, including emphasizing that individuals should not choose masks that have any holes or vents, such as those for exhalation, which allow the virus particles to escape.

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<sup>[1]</sup> Students and staff who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons, and students who cannot wear a mask for behavioral reasons, are exempted from the requirement.