



DEARBORN HEIGHTS MONTESSORI CENTER
A school that inspires

November 4, 2020

Dear Montessori Families,

There has been some confusion among staff and families as to which type of face covering must be worn while at school, so this note serves as clarification.

Vented masks—those that allow the wearer to expel air through a hole in the mask—are not considered proper face coverings for school purposes, because they do not help stop the spread of COVID-19 virus. They are mostly used in industrial environments, where they protect the wearer from taking in pathogens, but do not prevent exhaled respiratory droplets and aerosols from escaping. These masks are prohibited on most airlines, and in many public spaces, including Dearborn public libraries, where mask-wearing is required.

The CDC website provides guidance on vented masks:

Masks with Exhalation Valves or Vents

*The purpose of masks is to keep respiratory droplets from reaching others to aid with source control. However, masks with one-way valves or vents allow air to be exhaled through a hole in the material, which can result in expelled respiratory droplets that can reach others. This type of mask does not prevent the person wearing the mask from transmitting COVID-19 to others. Therefore, CDC **does not recommend** using masks for source control if they have an exhalation valve or vent.*

In short, face masks made of various materials are acceptable in school, as long they cover the nose and mouth **without venting**. Thank you for abiding by this basic (and required) safety guideline.

Please stay well and safe (and by doing so, help everyone else to do the same).

Kay Neff and Laura Springer