

Today LNI released [Employer Health & Safety Requirements for School Scenarios](#). This was developed by a workgroup with representatives from OSPI, the Department of Health, the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I), local superintendents, and labor organizations.

This document clarifies and builds out the worksite safety guidance embedded within the June reopening guidance.

Following are the key points:

- The overall health risk for the typical K–12 in-person instructional setting is classified as low-risk, requiring a cloth face covering for staff. There are other scenarios in the school setting where the risk level may be higher or lower.
- Consistent with the memo from L&I Secretary Joel Sacks last Friday, N95 respirators are **not** required for all school staff.
- N95 respirators (or equivalent) are only required in high-risk or very high-risk situations. If an employer cannot reasonably obtain an N95 or equivalent, they may use a face shield **plus** an FDA-approved surgical mask, procedural mask, or a KN95 mask until a respirator can be obtained.
- We have also heard a misunderstanding related to PPE requirements in medium-risk environments. L&I's long-standing guidance allows for several different protection options in medium-risk environments, including a face shield plus a cloth face mask, a surgical-style mask, a hobby dust mask, a KN95 mask, or a KN90 mask.

For all risk levels, you can find different face covering and respirator options in L&I's [Which Mask for Which Task?](#) document.