

# SOUND ADVICE

## School Health & Safety Guide

We've posted to the PSWCT website the [September 30, 2020 edition](#) of the joint agency guidance developed by representatives of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I), local superintendents, and labor organizations.



Key worksite safety points are as follows:

- The overall health risk for the typical K–12 in-person instructional setting is classified as low-risk. There are other scenarios in the school setting where the risk level may be higher or lower.
- In low-risk situations, staff may wear a cloth face covering.
- In medium-risk situations, L&I's long-standing guidance allows for several different protection options, including a face shield with a cloth face mask, a surgical-style mask, a hobby dust mask, a KN95 mask, or a KN90 mask.
- For high-risk or extremely high-risk situations, an N95 respirator or equivalent should be used. 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.
- N95 respirators or equivalent protection are only required in high-risk or extremely high-risk situations.

Reach out to [Elizabeth Jakab](#), pictured above, the PSWCT Industrial Hygiene Consultant with any questions.

