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State announces new agreement making it easier for schools to purchase affordable face masks

Amid a new surge in COVID-19 cases, the State of California announced on Dec. 16 that it has negotiated a broad purchasing agreement that will allow local government entities across the state, including school districts and county offices of education, to purchase face masks at an affordable, state-negotiated price.

State officials have selected 59 vendors that will provide six types of N95 and surgical masks, all certified by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health or the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. State, county and city governments, as well as public school districts will be able to purchase masks at competitive standard and bulk prices.

Schools interested in purchasing from these vendors under this agreement can find instructions at the [DGS Statewide Contract for masks website](#).

“Amid global shortages and competition, we leveraged our state’s purchasing power to get critical, in-demand equipment like N-95 masks to the Californians who needed it the most,” Gov. Gavin Newsom said in a statement. “In this most intense COVID-19 surge yet, we take another bold and uniquely Californian step to help local governments and schools — from any state — to get the PPE they need.”



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