MAKING THE MOST OF MASKS

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I'm Jazzy!

I'm Jazzy's Mom!
I heard vaccines for COVID-19 are out. Will we stop wearing masks when we get our vaccine?

Even when we get our vaccine, we'll wear masks to protect other people who might not have theirs yet. So, we'll still be wearing masks for a while!
But I’m getting tired of masks!

Well, since masks will be a part of our everyday wardrobe for a while, I’m going to buy some new masks to make wearing them more fun! Do you want to pick yours out?
Wow! I've seen people wearing masks with awesome designs. I want to show off my style too!

Okay! Come and look at them with me!
WHILE ONLINE SHOPPING...

Oooh! I never knew people could pick from so many designs and types of masks! I love lots of them!

Great! But we need to make sure to get the correct size, so the mask fits you properly.
So, scientists have done some cool experiments with how well masks keep viruses from spreading. They found that masks work best when they fit snugly around your nose, chin, and the sides of your face. The air you breathe out should go through the mask fabric.

Also if your mask fits well you don’t have to readjust it or hold it in place.

Fit me properly? It’s not a pair of shoes! What do you mean?
Oh, I know what you mean! Vito’s mask keeps falling down so his nose sticks out. I keep reminding him that he breathes in and out of his nose, ya know?

And if his nose isn’t covered up, the mask doesn’t stop the virus.

So, then he pulls it up, which isn’t helping him keep his hands away from his face!
Well, I want you to have the right size mask so you don’t have that problem!

See, this website gives a guide to measure your face and pick out the right size. Here, I have a tape measure.

**Cloth Face Mask Sizing Guide**

Choose the size below that matches your measurements

A. Measure from the bridge of the nose to the bottom of the chin

B. Measure from the back of the ear to the tip of the nose
Okay! I love the purple mask with gold polka dots on it! Looks like I need a size small. Also, it has adjustable ear thingys, so I can get it to fit just right.
Perfect! I will buy it for you! Do you want another mask? Including the one you already have, that gives you one to wear, one to wash, and a spare.

Oh, that makes sense. Could you please buy me the blue mask with flowers in a size small?

Yes, of course!
Plus, an extra mask gives you the option to "double mask" in case you can't avoid a crowded situation.

Double mask?? You mean wear two at a time? It's enough trouble to wear just one! Some people don't even do that!

I hear you! But some experiments have shown it works as well as the N-95 masks medical people wear. So, it's good to have the option!
Mom! I love my new masks so much! You know we have to wear them all day at school, so I kept them in my backpack and reused them every couple of days.

I think I sweated on them and maybe drooled on them a little bit, ha! They are looking a bit dirty and the one I just took off feels damp.

Oh dear, Jazzy! You kept them in your backpack all week? Did you forget that I told you to wash your mask every day?

I have a couple of masks to wash too. I’ll do it with you!
Oops! OK, I’m going to do my homework first and then we can clean them. What should I do with my dirty masks for now?

I asked Dr. Breeze about this. She said if they’re damp, store them in a plastic bag until you can wash them. But don’t leave them so long that they get moldy!

Okay! I’ll put them in a plastic bag, wash my hands, do my homework, and come back! See you soon!

And... please don’t forget to wash your hands with soap and water after touching your used masks!
I'm back! What should I do about the masks now?

Yes, I just did my laundry yesterday.

You have two options! Have you done your laundry this week?

Okay! No problem. You could have included them in your regular laundry. But, since you've already done it, we'll wash the masks by hand instead.
Okay! I think we need to use soap when we clean our masks!

Yes, I agree! Do you know why?
Yes! We learned in school that soap has a split personality: it is water-loving and oil-loving! So, the oil-loving ends of soap molecules attach to the oily layer of the virus... and oily dirt too!

Rubbing the mask helps the soap unstick dirt and any viruses from the mask.

Then, we can rinse everything away because the water-loving ends of soap molecules are attracted to water!
1. Wet your mask with water and add a few drops of liquid soap.
2. Squeeze the wet mask to make the soap foam up.
3. Rinse with clean water to remove the soap.
4. Hang your mask or lay it flat and let it dry fully.
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