

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) on Facial Coverings**

**Our objective is to provide learning opportunities for all students in a manner that mitigates the spread of the virus. The use of facial coverings is one part of the overall plan. Educators are expected to help students learn this new social norm and help them understand that it is in place for the health and welfare of all staff and students.**

### **Are staff and students expected to have a face covering on at all times during the school day?**

Yes, staff and students are expected to wear a face covering while at school at all times. The only exceptions to this are when eating or drinking and when outside engaging in a physically distanced mask break. Staff who are alone in an office or classroom space may also choose to take a mask break.

### **What if a student defies a teacher's request to wear a face covering?**

It is the school district's responsibility to define expectations and behaviors that help to ensure a safe learning environment. If a regular education student willfully disobeys a teacher's expectation there will be progressive discipline. The first step will be a conversation between the student and the teacher. The conversation will be documented and parents notified. A second offense will result in a meeting with the school administrator and the parent(s) of the students. A third offense may result in the student being transferred to an alternate learning environment, specifically distance learning. The willful disregard for safety expectations, potentially endangering the wellbeing of others, will not be allowed.

Students with Section 504 Accommodation Plans and Individualized Education Programs (IEP's) who defy staff requests to comply with the mask mandate will be dealt with following procedures that ensure their access to a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) is not denied.

### **Will the district allow for any adaptations or exceptions for students wearing a face mask?**

The District recognizes there are specific instances when wearing a cloth face covering may not be feasible. In these instances, adaptations, alternatives or even exceptions may be considered whenever possible. The district will follow guidance from the CDC and healthcare providers on making any adaptations, alternatives and exceptions. Certain adaptations and exceptions may be made for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, because face coverings eliminate lip reading as an effective form of communication. Additionally, some individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health conditions or other sensory sensitivities, may have challenges wearing a cloth face covering. Individuals who may require an exception should consult with their healthcare provider for advice about wearing cloth face coverings or healthy alternative PPE measures.

Exceptions and adaptations will be approved by Student Services in conjunction with Building Principals. If ongoing concerns exist regarding a student's inability or unwillingness to comply with the use of PPE, a review/revise meeting should be scheduled.

### **Is the district providing facial coverings for staff and students?**

All staff and students are expected to provide their own face coverings. Face coverings must be two layers thick, and one layer buffs/gaiters do not meet this criteria. Masks with valves are also to be avoided. The mask must fit snugly over the nose and mouth. Facial coverings should be washed daily after use. Disposable facial coverings need to be discarded after their daily use.

If an individual forgets their face covering or is unable to supply one, a mask will be provided by the District.

**Is the district providing additional PPE for students, and the staff who work with them, who have special circumstances?**

Yes, when exceptions, adaptations, or alternatives are approved by the District, necessary materials including face shields, adaptive facial coverings, gowns, gloves, and plexiglass dividers will be provided.

**Resources**

- [Department of Public Instruction Considerations in Using Facial Coverings When Supporting Students during In Person Instruction](#)

This document addresses the special considerations that may be necessary for students who are deaf or hard of hearing, need explicit instruction, have sensory needs, need direct physical prompting, or need behavioral support. Links to social stories are also provided.

- [National Association of School Nurses Return to School Post COVID-19 Closure Considerations for Students with Disabilities and Special Healthcare Needs](#)

Some students may not be able to tolerate cloth face coverings, Adaptive face coverings may be needed for some students/staff based on the disability needs. Face shields are recommended for staff who work with students who cannot wear facial coverings.

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guide to Masks](#)

Outlines how to properly select, wear, and care for facial coverings.