

COVID-19 Face Covering Policy

A face covering is a piece of fabric, cloth, or other material that covers the wearer's nose, mouth, and chin simultaneously and is secured to the wearer's face by elastic, ties, or other means. Acceptable face coverings may be homemade, and they may be reusable or disposable. A face shield made of flexible plastic that wraps around the wearer's face and extends below his or her chin may also be an acceptable face covering under certain circumstances as determined by the Superintendent. The Superintendent's/designee's interpretation of whether a face covering fits this definition is final.

School Staff and Other Adults on School Property:

All school staff members must wear a face covering unless covered by an exception recognized by the Ohio Department of Health. "Staff members" is an inclusive term and includes but is not limited to all salaried and hourly Board employees, vendors and contractors engaged in Board business, volunteers, student teachers, and delivery personnel. The District is required to provide local officials with written justification on request when a staff member is not required to wear a face covering, so a staff member may be required to answer questions and/or supply documentation as appropriate if he or she requests not to wear a face covering. The Superintendent's/designee's decision to grant or deny an exception or the use of a face shield is final.

Visitors to District buildings are limited to those enrolling new students and emergencies. Visitors must wear a face covering and will be provided one if necessary.

Disposable face coverings must be disposed of at the end of each day. Reusable cloth face coverings must be washed at the end of each day.

Students:

All students from kindergarten through twelfth (12th) grade must wear face coverings. This requirement applies at all times students are on school property or participating in school related activities, including while students are on buses and other District transportation vehicles. Certain courses/activities may be granted a limited exception to this requirement at the discretion of the Superintendent/designee.

Exceptions

The face covering requirement does not apply when:

1. The student is eating;
2. The student is engaged in outdoor recess and/or physical education class where students are able to maintain physical distancing of at least six feet; or
3. Students are engaging in activities where wearing a face covering would significantly impair a student's ability to receive necessary services (ex. administration of medication, provision of speech therapy).

Requests for exceptions under this section as well as those necessary for students with a documented health or developmental condition shall be considered by the Superintendent/designee, who may request documentation justifying the exception.

Students (or parents) who seek to be exempted from wearing a face covering for other than a health or developmental condition will be offered remote learning for the period that face coverings are required in school buildings.

Consequences:

The District will not tolerate harassment of students who are wearing face coverings or those with recognized exemptions to the face covering requirement and will appropriately discipline students or staff who harass or bully students with exemptions or engage in behavior that interferes with any student or staff member's ability to comply with this policy.

Failure or refusal to wear a face covering by a staff member or student will result in discipline in accordance with other District policies, handbooks, and/or codes of conduct, as applicable. In addition, students who fail or refuse to wear a face covering may be assigned by the Superintendent to remote learning. If a student who is required to wear a face covering does not have one, he or she will be provided an acceptable face covering by a staff member.

General:

This policy is intended to align with all pre-existing District policies, including but not limited to student and staff dress codes. To the extent that this policy does not so align, this policy will supersede others in accordance with applicable law and regulations in effect at the time. For clarifications on potential conflicts between policies, the interpretation of the Superintendent/designee is final.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to amend these requirements as necessary to meet federal, state and local guidelines. If local, state or federal health officials subsequently issue any mandate regarding the wearing of face coverings that conflicts with the provisions of this policy, the District will suspend the conflicting provisions of this policy and comply with the mandate from health officials.