



COVID-19 Face Covering Policy

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.

Please see the attached “Director’s Order Requiring the Use of Facial Coverings in Child Education Settings.” As stated above, this mandate will be enforced until it is lifted. <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/public-health-orders/DO-K-12-facial-coverings>

Staff:

All school staff members must wear a face covering made of cloth/fabric that covers the employee’s nose, mouth, and chin, 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 employees, vendors, contractors, volunteers, student teachers, and delivery personnel.

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. Disposable face coverings must not be disposed of at the end of each day after use. Reusable cloth face coverings must be washed at the end of each day at home.

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 or his or her designee’s decision to grant or deny an exception or whether a face shield may be used is final. A face shield made of flexible plastic that wraps around the wearer’s face and extends below his or her chin may be an acceptable face covering under certain circumstances as determined by the Superintendent.

Essential vendors, approved community partners, and approved student teachers must wear a face covering and will be provided one if necessary. Visitors will be asked to leave District property if they refuse to wear a face covering subject to limited exceptions.

Students:

Phases for Student Face Coverings

In an effort to minimize interference with the learning process while recognizing the necessity of remaining nimble in responding to COVID-19, the District will use three phases to establish a student’s responsibility for wearing a face covering while on school property and/or participating in school related activities, including while students are on buses and other District transportation vehicles.



Under phase yellow or red, a student must wear a face covering, unless he or she cannot do so for a documented health or developmental reason. 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.

The current phase will be publicized in all school buildings, on the District's website, and through other means to ensure students and families are informed. The phase may be changed by the Superintendent, in consultation with the Board or other administrators and health professionals. The phase designated by the Superintendent must comply with the mandates of federal, state, and local governments and health authorities. The District will provide notice before any phase change is implemented.

Green

All students from third (3rd) through twelfth (12th) grade are strongly recommended to wear face coverings 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. This is to make the school environment safer for the students and staff members in our community who are at most risk from COVID-19.

Facial coverings are strongly recommended to be worn in hallways and common areas by all students from pre-kindergarten through twelfth (12th) grade.

Yellow

All students from third (3rd) 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 or his or her designee.

Facial coverings must always be worn in hallways and common areas by all students from kindergarten through twelfth (12th) grade.

Red

All students from pre-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 or his or her designee.

Current Level: 08/06/2020



Exceptions

The face covering requirement in phases Yellow and Red does not apply while:

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;
3. The student is in a classroom in which all students are able to maintain at least six feet of physical distance during instruction; and
4. 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).
5. A face shield made of flexible plastic that wraps around the wearer's face and extends below his or her chin may be an acceptable face covering under certain circumstances as determined by the Superintendent.

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 exemption.

General Provisions:

Failure or refusal to wear a required face covering by a staff member or student may result in discipline in accordance with other District policies, handbooks, and/or codes of conduct, as applicable. 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.

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 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 or his or her designee is final.

Staff and students are encouraged to arrange mask "breaks" when six feet of social distancing is assured and aligned with all other orders and procedures.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to amend these requirements as necessary to meet federal and state guidelines.

The district is currently in the red face covering phase. 08/06/2020