Face Coverings

Updated 8.14.2020
Subject to the exceptions set forth below, each student, employee, visitor, vendor or other person is required to wear a face covering at all times, when social distancing cannot be adhered to, while on school district property. This includes, but is not limited to, on any grounds or facility or inside any building or bus owned, leased, or operated by the school district. All students, employees, visitors, and vendors shall have a face covering with them at all times while on school district property even if they are temporarily allowed to not wear a face covering pursuant to one of the exceptions set forth below. An infant younger than two (2) years old and a person with a medical certification are not required to carry a face covering.

When social distancing* cannot be adhered to, it is required that students and staff wear a face covering. The student dress code applies to face coverings and only the nose and mouth should be covered, not the full face.

*Social distancing is defined as 6 feet

These guidelines may change depending on local, state, or federal recommendations.
Guidelines – Exceptions to Required Face Coverings

While maintaining social distancing (six (6) feet minimum) as much as feasible, a face covering is not required in the following instances:

**Infants** - A face covering shall not be required for persons younger than two (2) years old.

**Pre-K through Grade 2** – While a face covering is strongly recommended for students in Pre-K through Grade 2, it shall not be required.

**Medical Certification** - A face covering shall not be required for persons who present school district staff with a certification from a licensed health care provider that the person has a medical, physical, or psychological contraindication that prevents the person from being able to safely wear a face covering.

**IEP/504** – A face covering shall not be required for persons who have documented through an IEP or 504 plan that the person has a medical, physical, or psychological contraindication that prevents the person from being able to safely wear a face covering.

**Students with Supervisor’s Approval** - A face covering shall not be required for a student if the school district staff supervising the student authorizes the student to remove their face covering during that activity provided that the student maintains social distancing (six (6) feet minimum) from other persons when not wearing a face covering.

**Employees** - A face covering shall not be required for a school district employee provided that the employee maintains social distancing (six (6) feet minimum) from other persons when not wearing a face covering.
Guidelines – Exceptions to Required Face Coverings

While maintaining social distancing (six (6) feet minimum) as much as feasible, a face covering is not required in the following instances:

**Eating and Drinking** - A face covering shall not be required for any person inside or outside a school district facility while such person is stationary and eating or drinking during a planned mealtime and/or snack time. A face covering also shall not be required while any person is drinking while inside or outside of a school district facility.

**Strenuous Physical Activity** - A face covering shall not be required for any person inside or outside of any school district facility while such person is engaged in strenuous physical activity.

**During Receipt of Health Care** - A face covering may be removed when removal of the face covering is necessary for such person to receive health care or to undergo a health care examination from authorized health care personnel.

**Exigent Circumstances** - A face covering shall not be required if a person is experiencing acute trouble breathing, is unconscious or incapacitated, is personally unable to remove the face covering without assistance or it is deemed by school district staff to be necessary to remove the face covering.
All students, employees, visitors and vendors are encouraged to wear their own face covering, however, disposable face coverings will be available at all sites. Acceptable face covering include:

**Commercially Produced Face Coverings** – Commercially produced surgical masks or respirators are acceptable for compliance with this policy, but are not mandated.

**Cloth Face Coverings** – Commercially produced or home-made cloth face coverings are acceptable for compliance with this policy provided the face covering covers both the mouth and nose and fits snugly against the sides of the person’s face with little to no gaps.

All student face coverings shall comply with the school’s dress code for shirts.

Face shields may be used by persons to comply with this policy. Faculty are allowed to use a face shield, in lieu of a mask, when the instruction requires the students to be able to see a teacher’s face.
Guidelines – Compliance

**Student**
Students who do not wear a face covering will first be offered one. If refused, the student will be referred to administration for a Level 1 offense. If the behavior escalates in response to the intervention, a student may be considered for a higher-level offense. Students who persistently violate this policy may be referred to eLearning after a parent conference to discuss the concerns.

**Employees**
Employees who refuse to wear a face covering may be disciplined according to Board Policy and the applicable Collective Bargaining Agreement.

**Visitor and Vendor Compliance**
Authorized visitors and Vendors who refuse to wear a face covering will not be permitted on District property.

This Emergency Policy takes effect on August 11, 2020, and will remain in effect for 90 days unless extended pursuant to Section 120.54(4), Florida Statutes.