

Face Coverings in School

The Bethany Board of Education (Board) recognizes the importance of protecting the health and safety of students, staff, and the community during a pandemic/epidemic when instructed by public health officials. As such, and in accordance with requirements and guidelines issued by the Connecticut State Department of Education or public health officials, the Board requires that all individuals entering the school building, a Bethany Public School District (District) facility, or a District transportation vehicle wear an appropriate face covering. An appropriate face covering shall consist of a cloth mask or disposable procedure-style mask that completely covers the individual’s nose and mouth. An appropriate face covering shall not include neck gaiters, bandanas, or exhalation valve masks. Any individual who presents for entrance into the school building, District facility, or District transportation vehicle who is not wearing an appropriate face covering shall be provided an appropriate face covering by the District.

Compliance with this policy shall be mandatory for all individuals while in the school building, District facility, and/or District transportation vehicle unless an applicable exception applies. Any individual who refuses to wear an appropriate face covering at all times while in the school building, District facility, or District transportation vehicle shall be denied admission and/or required to leave the premises, unless an applicable exception applies. In addition, failure to comply with this policy may lead to disciplinary action for students and staff, and exclusion from school property for members of the community, in accordance with applicable laws, rules, regulations, Board policies, and/or administrative regulations.

All individuals participating in or attending any school-sponsored activities must wear an appropriate face covering, whether or not those activities occur in the school building, District facility, or District transportation vehicle unless an applicable exception applies or the Superintendent, in consultation with the local health department, determines that face coverings are not required for intramural athletes participating in certain intramural athletic activities.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to promulgate administrative regulations in furtherance of this policy.

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221
Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut’s Plan to Learn and Grow Together,
Connecticut State Department of Education, as amended

Policy adopted: December 9, 2020

Source: Shipman