

Billings School District 2

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Face Coverings as Personal Protective Equipment

This policy applies during the COVID19 state of emergency declared by the Board of Trustees or other local, state or federal agency, official, or legislative body. This policy is adopted, implemented, and enforced in accordance with the supervisory authority vested with the Board of Trustees in accordance with Article 10, section 8 of the Montana Constitution. The Board of Trustees authorizes the Superintendent to develop and implement procedures to enforce this policy.

At the discretion of the Superintendent, the School District requires all staff, volunteers, visitors, and school-aged students to wear a face covering while present in any school building, regardless of vaccination status. At the discretion of the Superintendent, the School District also requires all staff, volunteers, visitors, and school-aged students to wear a face covering while present at any outdoor school activity with fifty (50) or more people where physical distancing is not possible or is not observed. Face covering means disposable or reusable masks that cover the nose and mouth. The School District will provide masks to students, volunteers, and staff, if needed. If a student or staff wears a reusable mask, the School District expects that the masks be washed on a regular basis to ensure maximum protection. The Superintendent is directed to brief the Board regularly concerning the District's COVID-19 protocols included required masking.

Students, staff, volunteers, and visitors are not required to wear a mask or face shield under this provision when:

1. consuming food or drink;
2. engaged in strenuous physical activity;
3. communicating with someone who is hearing impaired;
4. identifying themselves;
5. receiving medical attention; or
6. precluded from safely using a face covering due to a medical or developmental condition.

The superintendent, building principal, or their designee shall request documentation from a care provider when considering an exception to this provision for medical or developmental reasons. The School District will comply with all applicable disability and discrimination laws when implementing this provision.

When students and members of the public are not present, staff may remove their masks if they are at their individual workstation and six feet of distance is strictly maintained between individuals. If students are working in small groups, the students must be wearing masks.

All points of entry to any school building or facility open to the public shall have a clearly visible sign posted stating the mask requirement.

Allegations of harassment of any person wearing a mask or those with recognized exemptions to the face covering requirement will be promptly investigated in accordance with District policy. Failure or refusal to wear a mask by a staff member or student not subject to an exception noted above may result in redirection or discipline in accordance with District policy and codes of conduct, as applicable.

Legal References: § Article X, Section 8 Montana Constitution
 § Section 20-3-324, MCA Powers and Duties

Policy History:
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