

COLOGNE ACADEMY
MANUAL OF SCHOOL POLICIES APPROVED BY THE BOARD

546 Cologne Academy Face Covering Policy

I. GENERAL POLICY

In accordance with Cologne Academy Safe School Plan 2021/22, the policy of Cologne Academy is that students will wear a face mask when deemed necessary according to the Safe School Plan. Current Federal law mandates mask when riding on school transportation vehicles.

As provided below, this policy provides for some exemptions and allows for temporary removal in limited circumstances.

Face coverings protect others in case the wearer does not know he or she is infected with COVID-19.

DEFINITIONS

- 1. Face Covering.** A “face covering” means any paper or disposable mask, cloth face mask, medical-grade mask, scarf, bandanna, neck gaiter, or religious face covering that can be worn to cover the nose and mouth completely in accordance with CDC guidance. Masks with valves, mesh, openings, holes, vents, or visible gaps in the material are not sufficient face coverings.
- 2. Face Shield.** A “face shield” is a clear plastic barrier that covers the face, extends below the chin, and wraps around the sides of the face to the ears. An adequate face shield should have no exposed gap between the forehead and the shield’s headpiece.

II. EXEMPTIONS FROM FACE COVERING REQUIREMENTS

A. Students or Staff with Health Conditions/Disabilities/Behavioral Needs

Individuals with health conditions, disabilities, or mental health, developmental, or behavioral needs may be exempt from wearing a face covering if they have a need for an exemption from this policy. Student will wear a face shield. There is no exemption from a face shield.

B. Exemption requirements and procedures

- i. **Students.** If a parent claims that a student has a health condition, disability, or mental health condition, developmental, or behavioral need that exempts the student from this policy, staff will ask the parent for documentation to support the student's need for an exemption, unless the need is obvious or the School already possesses information that demonstrates the need. The School will consider the parent or eligible student's request in light of the documentation presented and if an exemption is warranted, will follow applicable laws to determine what accommodations are appropriate. A student's individualized education program (IEP) team or Section 504 team may consider whether any amendments to the IEP or Section 504 plan are necessary related to the face covering requirement.

III. TEMPORARY REMOVAL OF FACE COVERINGS

Temporary removal of face coverings is permissible in the following situations as long as 6 feet of distance is maintained.

1. With teacher permission, during indoor physical activity while the level of exertion makes wearing a face covering difficult. Social distancing of six feet must be maintained to the extent possible.
2. With teacher permission, during classes or activities held outdoors when social distancing of six feet can be maintained.
3. While eating or drinking.
4. With teacher permission, during indoor practices or performances involving acting, public speaking, or playing musical instruments where a face covering cannot be used while playing the instrument. Staff members must have supervisor permission to allow such activities without a face covering in the classroom.
5. Upon a school administrator's request, when checking identification of individuals.
6. When staff and/or students are communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing or has a disability, medical condition, or mental health condition that makes communication with a face covering difficult.
7. While receiving a service, including nursing, medical, or personal care services, that cannot be performed or would be difficult to perform when the individual receiving the service is wearing a face covering.

IV. ENFORCEMENT

A. Student violations

Cologne Academy will follow the general process set forth below when a non-exempt student shows up at school without a face covering:

- Cologne Academy will supply the student with a disposable mask to wear while in school.
- If a student refuses to wear the mask supplied, staff will remind the student of the face covering policy and contact the student's parents. The student will not be allowed to attend in-person school if he/she is not exempt from the face covering requirement. The School may impose disciplinary action.