



Union County Educational Services Commission Policy 1648.11 The Road Forward - District Plan for Safe Return 2021-2022 School Year

Appendix C – Mask Wearing Protocol

Union County Educational Services Commission readily acknowledges that universal and consistent use of face coverings is an important health and safety strategy to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

As of May 2, 2022 the UCESC mask mandate will be lifted and masking will be optional for all students and staff. In the event that the New Jersey Department of Health decide that mandatory masking be reinstated, we will notify you. Additionally, students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 and are able to return on Day 6 of their illness will still be required to wear a KN-95 mask on Days 6-10.

Students and staff who are a part of our hospital-based programs will still be required to wear masks in accordance with the policies of those facilities. Students and staff who visit community sites where masks are required will also be expected to follow those policies.

Guidelines for Mask Wearing

- Face coverings may be homemade, purchased cloth, or disposable masks.
- A multi-ply, tightly woven cotton cloth or multi-ply disposable face covering is recommended.
- Bandanas, neck gaiters, masks with exhalation valves or vents, or face coverings with printed images and/or text deemed inappropriate to the educational environment will not be permitted.
- Clear face shields cannot be used as a substitute for face coverings and may be worn only as a supplement to cloth or paper face coverings.
- Cloth face coverings with a clear “window” over the mouth are an acceptable alternative, particularly for teaching staff members assigned to work with students with disabilities.
- Disposable single use masks will be available for students and staff who forget to bring a face covering or whose face covering becomes wet or soiled while at school.
- Special personal protective equipment, including face shields and KN-95 filtration masks, will be provided to staff assigned to work with students in close contact and/or students who are unable to consistently wear face coverings or maintain recommended social distance.
- Parents and/or Guardians are responsible for supplying daily face coverings for students and will be asked to send a minimum of one extra face covering to remain in school.
- No disciplinary action will be taken against a student who does not have a face covering.
- Administrators will incorporate opportunities for students and staff to take short “fresh air” breaks periodically throughout the day to the greatest extent possible and practical.

- School Nurses and other relevant education staff will provide training for students and staff on the safe and effective use of face coverings on an ongoing basis.