

Policy ADD Face Covering

Issued 8/20

To reduce the spread of the pandemic (COVID-19), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that a face covering be worn in public settings when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. The district will consider the circumstances in the community and consult local health officials for the implementation of this policy.

Definitions

A *face covering* is a piece of fabric, cloth, or other material that covers the wearer's nose, mouth, and chin simultaneously and is secured to the wearer's face by elastic, ties, or other means. Acceptable face coverings may be homemade, and they may be reusable or disposable.

A *face shield* made of flexible plastic that wraps around the wearer's face and extends below his/her chin may also be used as a face covering.

Staff Members

Staff members are required to wear a face covering while on district property or conducting business on behalf of the district (e.g. driving a bus, conducting a home visit, supervising athletic events, etc.). **Exceptions may be granted on the school level at the discretion of the school principal and may be granted at all other district property at the discretion of the Superintendent.** Staff members include, but are not limited to, salaried and hourly employees, school volunteers, student teachers, and interns. The district will provide masks to staff members and expects that reusable masks will be washed regularly to ensure maximum protection.

Students

All students are required to wear face coverings while on district property, including the classrooms **and** on district transportation, ~~or attending a school related activity (e.g. athletic events, field trips, etc.).~~ **Certain Classes or activities may be granted an limited exception to this requirement at the discretion of the superintendent or his/her designee teacher.** The district *will* provide masks to students who are unable to provide their own and expects that reusable masks will be washed regularly to ensure maximum protection.

Exceptions for wearing a face covering may include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

- Mealtimes **and snack times**
- outdoor recess, **outdoor classrooms, outdoor PE or any outside school related activities** ~~where students can maintain a physical distance of at least six (6) feet~~
- administration of medication
- ~~when seated at workspaces and social distancing permits,~~ **in a classroom, small group setting, or one-to-one instruction** at the discretion of the ~~superintendent or his/her designee~~ **teacher.**

Visitors

Non-essential visitors to district buildings will be limited in accordance with administrative rule KI-R, *Visitors*. Visitors include, but are not limited to, parents/legal guardians, contract service providers, and delivery persons. Visitors are required to wear a face covering while on district property.

Accommodations

Requests for exceptions under this policy for health or developmental conditions or religious exemption will be considered by the superintendent or his/her designee, who may request documentation justifying the exception.

Students (or parents/legal guardians) who request to be exempted from wearing a face covering for other than a health or developmental condition or religious exemption will be offered virtual learning for the period that face coverings are required on district property.

Harassment and Bullying

The district will not tolerate harassment of anyone wearing **or not wearing** face coverings or those with recognized exemptions to the face covering requirement and will appropriately discipline students, staff, or visitors who engage in behavior that interferes with any student or staff member's ability to comply with this policy.

Discipline

Failure or refusal to wear a face covering by a staff member or student may result in discipline in accordance with district policy and codes of conduct, as applicable.

This policy is intended to be effective until further notice either an Executive Order from the Governor or the State School Board changes their mask mandate, at which this policy will be void. This policy will ~~and~~ align with district policies, including, but not limited to, student and staff dress codes. To the extent this policy does not align, this policy will supersede others in accordance with applicable law and regulations in effect at the time. For clarification on potential conflicts between policies, the interpretation of the superintendent, in collaboration with the school principal, or his/her designee is final.

~~The board authorizes the superintendent or his/her designee to amend these requirements as necessary to meet health and safety guidelines.~~

Adopted 8/10/20

School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties