

# Face Coverings in School What You Need to Know



## What is a face covering?

As per the PA Department of Health, a face covering is a covering of the nose and mouth that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is wrapped around the lower face. The covering can be made of synthetic or natural fabrics and can be factory-made, sewn by hand, or include items such as scarfs and bandanas. Plastic face shields which cover the nose and mouth are considered face coverings.

## Who must wear a face covering in school buildings?

All individuals, including students, staff, and visitors must wear a face covering on school property, including during student drop-off and pick-up. Individuals who have a documented medical or mental health condition or disability which precludes the wearing of a face covering are excluded from this requirement.

## When must a face covering be worn?

Face coverings must be worn at all times on school property with the following exceptions: when eating and drinking and spaced at least 6 feet part; or when wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task; or at least 6 feet apart during “face covering breaks” to last no longer than 10 minutes.



## Will face coverings be provided by the District?

Students are responsible for providing their own face covering. All staff will receive a face shield and a cloth mask with a pocket for a filter. The District will provide masks for students who are unable to provide their own.

## What if my child will not or cannot wear a face covering?

There are many kinds of face coverings available and we suggest that you try several until you find the one that works best for your child. Practice wearing the face covering for short periods of time, slowly increasing the time worn. Remember that there will be times during the day that your child has a break from wearing the face covering! If your child has a disability or medical or health condition that prevents the use of a face covering, please click [HERE](#), provide the requested information, and someone will reach out to you to discuss further.

## How are we enforcing the wearing of face coverings?

The PA DoH order dated July 1, 2020 applies to School Districts including all staff, students, and visitors on school property. It is our expectation that, with the exception of those with documented disabilities, all individuals in our buildings will wear a face covering. Staff will be providing ongoing instruction to students about the proper use of face coverings. Reminders will be given by staff to students who forget to replace face coverings after participating in an activity where they have been removed. Students who do not comply with the use of a face covering will first be encouraged to do so. If unsuccessful, the student will be separated from the other students and a parent/guardian will be contacted to pick the student up from school. Thank you for your cooperation as we follow the PA DoH order.

## Importance of Face Coverings

The wearing of face coverings, such as a mask, ensures that we as a school community limit the spread of COVID-19 and successfully combat this pandemic. The District thanks each of you for doing your part in helping to keep our students and staff healthy!

## Need More Information?

See the PA DoH order [HERE](#).

Refer to the Re-Opening ELCO Webpage [HERE](#) for more information and District updates.

## Still Have Questions?

Contact your building principal for questions specific to you or your child. If you have questions related to your child's IEP or 504 call 717-866-7117 Ext 10821