

School District of Lancaster

Face Covering Guidelines



Student Guidelines

Students must wear face coverings at all times while **inside** school property, even when social distancing can be achieved. The face covering must fit properly, covering the person's nose and mouth completely and securing under the chin. There are limited exceptions.

Limited Exceptions

- Children two years and older are required to wear a face covering unless they have a medical or mental health condition or disability, documented in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA, that precludes the wearing of a face covering in school. Accommodations for such students should be made in partnership with the student's health care provider, school nurse, and IEP/504 team.
- Cloth face coverings should not be placed on:
 - Children younger than 2 years old.
 - Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious.
 - Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.
- Schools may allow students to remove face coverings when students are:
 - Eating or drinking when spaced at least three (3) feet apart
 - Or when wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task
 - Or at least three (3) feet apart during "face-covering breaks" to last no longer than 10 minutes

Additional Guidance

- Students and families should be educated on how to:
 - Properly wear a face covering
 - Ensure that it covers nose and mouth
 - Maintain hand hygiene when removing the face covering
 - Replace and maintain (washing regularly) a cloth face covering
- Student's masks should be marked with the student's name.

Discipline related to non-compliance will be considered part of the Student Code of Conduct. If it is determined the mask expectation cannot be met after working with the student and parent/guardian, then the student will be sent home with an Out of School Suspension (OSS) for the remainder of the school day. A mandatory return from suspension meeting will be held the next school day. **If after working with the student and family over time, it has been determined the expectation still cannot be reached, an alternate enrollment or placement option may be recommended or mandated for the student.**

References

Staff & Visitor Guidelines

Staff and visitors are required to wear face coverings at all times while **inside** school property. The face covering must fit properly, covering the person's nose and mouth completely and securing under the chin. There are limited exceptions.

Limited Exceptions

- Staff face mask covering may be removed:
 - In area when alone in a room (eg classroom)
 - When eating or drinking and spaced at least three (3) feet from other staff or students

Additional Guidance on Clear Face Coverings

- In some instances masks are not feasible and staff should consider the use of **clear face covering** (mask with clear plastic to reveal mouth)
- Staff who may consider using clear face covering include:
 - Those who interact with students or staff who are deaf or hard of hearing, per the IDEA
 - Teachers of young students learning to read
 - Teachers of English Learners (ELs)
 - Teachers of students who receive some Special Education services
 - **Clear face coverings are not face shields**

Additional Guidance on Face Shields

- **CDC does not recommend use of face shields for normal everyday activities or as a substitute for cloth face coverings because of a lack of evidence of their effectiveness for source control**
- A face shield will be provided for all staff members
- Face shield should be used **in addition to masks and not as a replacement**
 - A face shield is primarily used for eye protection for the person wearing it. At this time, it is not known what level of protection a face shield provides to people nearby from the spray of respiratory droplets from the wearer. There is currently not enough evidence to support the effectiveness of face shields for source control. Therefore, CDC **does not currently recommend** use of face shields as a substitute for masks
 - Face shield should be applied in addition to a mask in a situation where there is a risk of bodily fluid contact. (Close contact with a person yelling, spitting, fighting, etc).
 - Staff is responsible for care of their own face shield

References