

Book Policy Manual  
Title Mandatory Face Coverings during COVID-19 Emergency  
Code po1700ER-2020

***Mandatory Face Coverings during COVID-19 Emergency***

- I. Policy. Subject to the exceptions set forth below, all persons (students, staff, contractors, vendors, and visitors) must wear appropriate face coverings that cover both the mouth and nose when on school board property, at a school board activity, or riding a bus or in other approved transportation. Further, all persons must have a face covering with them at all times on school board even if they are not required to wear the face covering due to an exception.
  
- II. Purpose. One of the School Board's highest priorities is to ensure the health and safety of its community including employees, students, and the public. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises that people who are infected with COVID-19 but symptomatic or pre-symptomatic play an important part of community spread. The use of face coverings by everyone can limit the release of infected droplets when talking, coughing, and/or sneezing, and help prevent the spread of the disease.
  
- III. Exceptions:
  - A. Infants:** A face covering shall not be required for persons younger than two (2) years of age;
  - B. Medical Certification:** A face covering shall not be required for persons who present school officials with a certification from a health care provider that the person has a medical, physical, or psychological contraindication that prevents the person from being able to safely wear a face covering;
  - C. Students with Supervisor's Approval:** A face covering shall not be required for a student if the school district official supervising the activity the student is engaged in authorizes the student to remove her/his face covering during that activity provided that the student maintains social distancing (six (6) feet minimum) from other persons when not wearing a face covering;
  - D. Employees with Supervisor's Approval:** A face covering shall not be required for an employee provided that (a) the employee maintains social distancing (six (6) feet minimum) from other persons when not wearing a face covering and (b) the school district official supervising the employee authorizes the employee to remove her/his face covering;

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- E. Outdoors with Social Distancing:** A face covering shall not be required for persons outside of any school district building or vehicle provided that such person maintains social distancing (six (6) feet minimum distance) from other persons;
- F. Regularly Scheduled Mealtimes:** A face covering shall not be required for any person inside or outside a school district facility while such person is eating during a planned mealtime;
- G. Strenuous Physical Activity:** A face covering shall not be required for any person inside or outside of any school district facility school district building while such person is engaged in strenuous physical activity if the person maintains social distancing of six (6) feet minimum from other persons when not wearing a face covering;
- H. Musical & Theatrical Performances:** A face covering will not be required for any student, employee or guest while playing a musical instrument or performing or rehearsing a choral or theatrical performance. This exception shall not apply to the singing of the National Anthem, school alma maters, or other songs performed by students not engaged in a planned choral class;
- I. During Receipt of Health Care:** A face covering shall not be required for any person inside or outside of any school district facility school district building when removal of the face covering is necessary for such person to receive health care or to undergo a health care examination from authorized health care personnel; or
- J. Exigent Circumstances:** A face covering will not be required if a person is experiencing acute trouble breathing, is unconscious or incapacitated, or is personally unable to remove the facial covering without assistance.

IV. Face Covering Types. Persons must supply and wear their own face coverings while upon a school district campus or inside a school district vehicle. The following face covering types are approved for compliance with this policy by persons:

- A. Commercially Produced Masks:** Commercially produced surgical masks or respirators are acceptable for compliance with this policy, but are not mandated.
- B. Cloth Face Coverings:** Cloth face coverings are acceptable for compliance with this policy provided that the face covering covers both the nose and mouth of the person and fits snugly against the sides of the person's face with no gaps. The U.S. Center for Disease Control has issued instructions on how to make a cloth face covering at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-make-cloth-face-covering.html>.

V. Limited Face Shield Use. Face shields are less effective than cloth face coverings and may not be used by persons to comply with this policy except under the following limited circumstances:

- A. Medical Certification:** A face shield may be worn in lieu of other approved face coverings by persons who present school officials with a certification from a health care provider that the person has a medical, physical or psychological

contraindication that prevents the person from being able to safely wear an approved face covering; or

- B. Phonetic Instruction: Face shields may be used by school district employees in situations where it is important for students to see how the instructor pronounces words (e.g., English Learners, early childhood instruction, speech therapy, foreign language, etc.), but only when video instruction is not available or appropriate.
- C. Instruction: Teachers may use clear face shields when presenting instruction to their classes so that students may better be able to see the teacher's face when the teacher is speaking if the teacher maintains a social distance of at least six feet from other persons.

- VI. Effective Date. As provided in Board Policy 0131 Legislative/ Policymaking, this emergency rule shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the Board, and will remain in effect for 90 days unless extended pursuant to section 120.54(4), Florida Statutes.

**SPECIFIC AUTHORITY:** Section 1001.41(1), (2) and (3), Florida Statutes.

**LAW IMPLEMENTED:** Sections 1001.42(4) and (8), 1003.31, 1012.23 and 1012.27(1) and (7), Florida Statutes.

**Policy Adopted:** July 28, 2020