

Face Covering Protocol for Students, Staff, & Visitors 2020-2021 School Year

On July 1, 2020, the PA Secretary of Health issued an [Order](#) requiring all individuals to wear a face covering when they leave their homes. This Order applies to any individual aged two and older whenever outside the home, including while in school entities, including public K-12 schools, PA Pre-K Counts, Head Start Programs, and Preschool Early Intervention programs.

When worn properly a face covering helps reduce the spread of the coronavirus by reducing droplet transmission between people. As a reminder, face coverings do not replace the need for maintain social distancing, frequent hand washing, and our rigorous cleaning and disinfecting routines.

Approved Face Coverings

"Face covering" means 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. A "face covering" can be made of a variety of synthetic or natural fabrics, including cotton, silk, or linen, and, for the purposes of the Order, can include a plastic face shield that covers the nose and mouth.

Please follow the guidance below for applying, removing, and cleaning the four types of face coverings approved for wear by school district staff, students, and visitors. Hand hygiene should be performed before and after applying and removing a face covering.

Type and Intended Use of Coverings				
Types of Face Covering	Disposable Surgical Mask	Cloth Mask	Neck Gaiters	Face Shields
				
Face Covering Application	Hook loops snugly around ears. Ensure that mask covers nose and mouth at all times and is secured under the chin.	Secure ties to head or hook loops snugly around ears. Ensure that mask covers nose and mouth at all times and is secured under the chin.	Start with the gaiter on your neck, then pull it up to just below your eyes. Cover from nose to chin. Ensure that it fits snugly, especially around your cheeks and the bridge of your nose, not to leave gaps.	Bending forward, hold face shield with both hands, expand the elastic with thumbs and place the elastic around head so that the foam rests on forehead. Ensure the shield covers the front and sides of the face and no areas are left uncovered.
Covering Removal	Unhook from ears and pull away from face without touching the inside of the mask. Fold so the inner part of the mask faces inward. Dispose immediately.	Untie or unhook from ears and pull away from face without touching the inside of the mask. Fold so the inner part of the mask faces inward.	Remove from the back of your head, by putting your (clean) fingers under the neckline and lifting up from the bottom to top over your head.	Remove and pull up and away from face without touching the front of the shield. Check for cracks in the shield and discard if cracked or damaged.

Cleaning	Dispose immediately into trash can. Not intended for multiple uses.	Wash after daily use in washing machine with other laundry OR by hand soaking in a solution of 1/3rd cup of household bleach per gallon of room temperature water. Rinse clear. Place in the dryer or hang dry.	Wash after daily use in washing machine with other laundry OR by hand soaking in a solution of 1/3rd cup of household bleach per gallon of room temperature water. Rinse clear. Place in the dryer or hang dry.	Carefully wipe the inside, followed by the outside of the face shield with a disinfectant wipe.
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General Guidance: Students

- Students should wear a face covering into school and have a spare to use if necessary.
- All students must wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth inside the school and while outside when physical distancing is not feasible.
- 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.
- Teachers will reinforce how to properly wear a face covering, to maintain hand hygiene when removing the face covering for meals and physical activity, and how to replace and maintain (washing regularly) a cloth face covering.
- Schools should provide face covering breaks throughout the day. Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet during these face covering breaks. Schools may allow students to remove face coverings when students are:
 - Eating or drinking when spaced at least 6 feet apart;
 - Seated at desks or assigned workspaces at least 6 feet apart;
 - Engaged in any activity at least 6 feet apart (e.g., face covering breaks, recess, etc.); or
 - When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.
 - Transparent face coverings provide the opportunity for more visual cues and should be especially considered as an alternative for younger students, students who are deaf and hard of hearing, and their teacher.

General Guidance: School Staff and Visitors

- Face coverings must be worn by all non-students, both staff and visitors (including parents and guardians), while on school property.
- Individuals must wear a face covering unless they have a medical or mental health condition or disability, documented in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, that precludes the wearing of a face covering in school.
- Face coverings may be removed to eat or drink during breaks and lunch periods as well as in their designated “teacher only” space in the classroom; however, at those times, social distancing must be practiced.
- Staff are not required to wear a face covering in situations where wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition to operate equipment or execute a task.
- Transparent face coverings provide the opportunity for more visual cues and should be considered as an alternative for younger students, students who are deaf and hard of hearing, and their teachers. Individuals who are communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired or who has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication, are not required to wear a mask; however, individuals should consider using another type of face covering such as a plastic face shield and increase physical distancing.
- Staff and students should remain mindful not to unnecessarily touch face coverings except for removal for meals and breaks.
- When masks are removed, they must be placed below the chin, in a pocket or on the lap. Face coverings should not be placed on tabletops or other communal surfaces.