

Face Coverings

August 2020



Maricopa County Public Health Requirement

Face coverings will be required for all staff and students* to wear during the school day until further notice.

Face coverings must be worn when it is difficult to stay six feet apart.

Protect others in case you are infected with COVID-19 but don't have symptoms.

Signs will be posted around the school as a reminder to wear masks.

* See slide 4 for exceptions

Glossary

When the term 'face covering' is used, it includes the following types of coverings:

Homemade cloth mask

Purchased cloth mask

Disposable medical masks

Paper masks

Neck gaiters

Mask

N95 Masks are NOT recommended; they are reserved for Medical Professionals

What if you are not able to wear a face covering?

If a student has a medical condition and can't wear a face covering, what does the parent/guardian need to provide to the school?

- A note from the doctor stating the medical diagnosis that prevents the child from wearing a cloth face covering is required before entering the building at the beginning of the school year. Deliver the note to your building's health office. Consult with your doctor for best alternatives for your child.
- Plastic face shields that wrap around the sides of the wearer's face and extend to below the chin are an allowed substitute **ONLY** for individuals who are unable to wear a cloth face covering with a doctor's note. It is not known if face shields provide any benefit as a source of control to protect others from the spray of respiratory particles. CDC does not recommend use of face shields for normal everyday activities or as a substitute for cloth face coverings.
- Disposable face shields should only be worn for a single use. Reusable face shields should be cleaned and disinfected after each use.

Why do we need to be careful handling face coverings?

COVID-19 is a dangerous virus that we are currently living with. With some basic safety measures, we can all stay safe. Face coverings need to be taken off properly, put back on properly, and stored correctly for the health and safety of everyone.

- The inside of face coverings carry our germs.
- The outside of face coverings potentially carry other people's germs.

Keep this in mind when face coverings are handled. We can't see the virus but it might be there.

How to correctly put on a face covering?

The Center for Disease Control states:

1. Use hand sanitizer or soap and water first
2. Do not touch the inside or outside of the face covering
3. Tie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops
4. Handle only by the ear loops or ties
5. Use hand sanitizer or soap and water afterwards



How do I correctly wear a face covering?

The Center for Disease Control states:

- It must cover your mouth
- It must cover your nose
- Don't wear it around your neck
- Don't put it up on your forehead
- Don't touch the face covering, and, if you do, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer to disinfect your hands



How do I Correctly Remove a Face Covering?

1. Wash your hands using hand sanitizer or soap and water for 20 seconds
2. Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops
3. Handle only by the ear loops or ties
4. Fold outside corners together
5. Do not touch the inside or outside of the face covering
6. Store your face covering in the designated location. Do not let face coverings touch each other
7. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer immediately after removing your face covering

How do I wash a non-disposable face covering?

As soon as you get home, remove your mask and put it into the washing machine or another safe place

The Center for Disease Control states:

Washing machine

- You can include your face covering with your regular laundry.
- Use regular laundry detergent and the warmest possible water setting for the cloth used to make the face covering.

Washing by hand

- Prepare a bleach solution by mixing:
 - 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) household bleach per gallon of room temperature water or
 - 4 teaspoons household bleach per quart of room temperature water
- Check the label to see if your bleach is intended for disinfection. Some bleach products, such as those designed for safe use on colored clothing, may not be suitable for disinfection. Ensure the bleach product is not past its expiration date. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser.
- Soak the face covering in the bleach solution for 5 minutes.
- Rinse thoroughly with cool or room temperature water.

How to dry a cloth face covering?

The Center for Disease Control states:

Dryer

- Use the highest heat setting and leave in the dryer until completely dry.

Air dry

- Lay flat and allow to completely dry. If possible, place the cloth face covering in direct sunlight.

When do I get a break from wearing a face covering?

Families and students will be provided with additional information regarding face covering breaks prior to the start of in person learning.

- Staff and students will not need to wear face coverings during:
 - Lunch
 - Recess
 - Face Covering Breaks

FHUSD recommends for students to have extra face coverings in their backpack.

Staff will have extra disposable masks available if the need arises.

What if a student is not wearing a face covering?

These are the types of questions an FHUSD staff members might ask to help the students comply with the face covering requirement. They will be positive and ask questions in a kind and caring manner. They may ask:

- Do you have a face covering with you today?
- Why are you not wearing a face covering?
- Is something wrong?
- Are you okay?
- Are you feeling anxious?
- Explain to me how you are feeling?
- Why are you not wanting to wear a face covering?
- Do you need a face covering break?
 - If a face covering break is needed, a staff member will assist the student.
 - If the staff member is unable to figure out the problem, the parent/guardian will be contacted.

What happens to a student who refuses to wear a face covering?

1. Verbal request; 1 minute to comply (staff member walks away from the student)
2. If no compliance, ask student to move away from the rest of the class
3. Make a second verbal request; 1 minute to comply (staff member walks away from the student)

If the student doesn't comply follow the discipline steps for each school.

Administration and parent/guardian will be notified.

1. FHHS sends the student to the Refocus Room
2. FHMS and MMES sends the student to an appropriate staff member
3. The staff member will work with the student

What are the procedures for repeated refusals to use face coverings?

For 2nd refusal incident

- student is moved to distance learning for a short period of time
- Accepted back with written agreement to comply
- Readmission meeting with students, parent/guardian, administration

For 3rd refusal incident

- The student is moved to distance learning for an extended period of time
- Accepted back with written agreement to comply
- Readmission meeting with students, parent/guardian, administration

For 4th refusal incident

- Student will be relocated to online school until face covering requirement is cancelled by FHUSD

Thank you!

Thank you for reviewing these guidelines and supporting our community and schools in keeping our students and staff safe.

Please review this information with your child and answer any questions or concern your child may have.

If needed, please reach out to your child's homeroom teacher or counselor with any major concerns that arise.