



Greater Johnstown Career and Technology Center

November 18, 2020

RE: PA DOH Requirement for Universal Face Coverings

Dear GJCTC Family Member,

I am sending this correspondence to inform everyone that the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) has updated the order for universal face coverings and that it takes effect on 11-20-2020. It now requires use indoors and outdoors. I felt it was necessary to inform all of you that GJCTC must follow these orders. **Therefore, beginning 11-20-2020 all entering GJCTC SHALL follow this order:**

What type of mask complies with this Order?

The Order requires individuals to wear a "face covering." "Face covering" means covering of the nose and mouth with material 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. A "face covering" may be factory-made, sewn by hand, or be improvised from household items, including, but not limited to, scarfs, bandanas, t-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels.

Does a disposable face shield suffice in lieu of a mask?

Wearing a cloth face covering is best. A disposable face shield is considered an alternative to a face covering and may be worn when wearing a face covering is otherwise not possible. (NOTE: this will require a doctors note to be utilized within GJCTC.)

Does the masking requirement apply to workers who are outdoors, and who engage in heavy physical activity, such as employees of solid waste companies and landscapers?

Yes. Individuals must wear a face covering unless working alone or working solely with individuals who are a part of their household.

Do I have to wear a mask both inside and outside?

The Order requires individuals to wear a face covering when indoors, irrespective of physical distance. When outdoors, one must wear a face covering when with others who are not members of the person's household and unable to maintain sustained physical distance.

Sustained physical distance means the practice of staying at least six feet away from others to avoid becoming a close contact.

Is it acceptable to remove face coverings when high temperatures and humidity may create unsafe conditions, or simply if the weather is very warm?

Individuals must wear face coverings unless wearing a face covering would create an unsafe

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condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines. Mere discomfort is not considered a risk to an individual's health or safety. Face shields may be considered an alternative if wearing a cloth face covering is otherwise not possible. (NOTE: Each GJCTC teacher was asked to provide a list of program related activities that could create unsafe conditions. You teacher has this list and will direct students appropriately.)

Under what circumstances are students permitted to remove their face coverings?

School entities may allow students to remove face coverings when students are:

- Eating or drinking when spaced at least six feet apart; or
- When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task; or
- At least six feet apart during "face-covering breaks" to last no longer than 10 minutes.

Section 3: Exceptions to Covering Requirement: The following are exceptions to the face covering requirements in Section 2. All alternatives to wearing a face covering, including the use of a face shield, should be exhausted before an individual is excepted from this Order. A. If wearing a face covering while working would create an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines. B. If wearing a face covering would either cause a medical condition, or exacerbate an existing one, including respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition or a disability. C. When necessary to confirm the individual's identity. D. While obtaining a service that requires the temporary removal of the face covering, such as dental services. E. When working alone and isolated from interaction with other people with little or no expectation of in-person interaction. F. If an individual is communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing-impaired or has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/Universal-Masking-FAQ.aspx>

<https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/20201117-SOH-Universal-Face-Coverings-Order-Update.pdf>

Therefore, ALL who enter GJCTC shall comply with this new order from the Secretary of the PA Department of Health; those not in compliance will not be able to enter GJCTC. Thank you in advance for your cooperation during these unprecedented circumstances.

Sincerely,


John S. Augustine II
Administrative Director