

Facial Coverings

All staff, students, volunteers, and visitors over the age of 5 shall wear a face covering anywhere on a school campus until the Arizona Department of Health Services determines that facial coverings are no longer necessary to contain the spread of COVID-19. This includes students and staff on buses. Facial coverings include face masks or face shields. (Governor Ducey Executive Order 2020-51)

Face coverings should fully cover a person's nose and mouth, ideally fitting snugly but comfortably against the sides of the face and under the chin. If used, a face shield should wrap around the side of the wearer's face and extend below the chin. They are to remain affixed in place without the use of one's hands and should not have holes.

Face coverings do not replace the need for frequent handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and practicing physical distancing (six feet [6'] away) to the extent possible. Individuals are to be reminded to avoid touching their facial covering and to wash their hands frequently.

Families are expected to provide their own facial coverings for their children.

Exemptions/Exceptions to Wearing Facial Coverings

- Students and staff shall not be required to wear facial coverings when they can socially distance.
- When students are outside in playground settings with distancing
- During breaks for students/staff to take their masks off in a safe environment
- Those who qualify as having a medical, behavioral or mental health condition.
- Those who have a developmental disability or other sensory sensitivities.
- Individuals who have trouble breathing or where the covering could be a choking/strangulation hazard or limit one's ability to breathe
- Anyone who is incapacitated or unable to remove the covering without help
- Persons who are swimming or are engaged in activities that may cause the face covering to become wet.
- Persons who are eating or drinking
- Persons interacting with someone who has a hearing loss or is deaf
- Persons who are exercising

The Superintendent may make other exceptions to the requirement to wear a face covering while keeping in mind the health and safety of everyone involved.

Other considerations

Younger children (e.g., preschool or early elementary aged) may be unable to wear a face covering properly, particularly for an extended period of time. Wearing of face coverings may be prioritized at times when it is difficult to physically distance from others.

Staff and parents of students who qualify for an exemption should inform their site administration of the qualifying exemption, while keeping in mind the health and safety of everyone involved. Administration will confidentially document and monitor those exemptions/exceptions and ensure that a student's teacher(s) and other appropriate staff are aware of the exemption.

In addition, administration will also work through specific issues with both students and staff to facilitate the proper wearing of facial coverings. This may include, but is not limited to, education on proper facial covering wearing, appropriate facial covering design that aligns with school dress code policy, communication with parents when appropriate, lack of facial covering, etc. Site administration will also help to guide facial covering breaks throughout the school/work day in a safe environment and while physically distanced from others.

Facial coverings that are disruptive or that detract from the educational process are prohibited. Students deemed as wearing an inappropriate facial covering, lacking a facial covering, not wearing it or inappropriately wearing it after multiple verbal warnings, may be directed to the administration office which may result in possible parental contact and disciplinary action.

Discriminatory or obscene language or symbols, or symbols of sex, drugs, or alcohol on facial coverings are prohibited. School administrators will make the final decision regarding the appropriateness of any student's facial covering.