

2170-E FACE COVERINGS

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) AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (FDOH) ADVISE THAT PEOPLE WHO MAY BE INFECTED WITH COVID-19 (WHETHER SYMPTOMATIC OR PRE-SYMPTOMATIC) PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN REDUCING COMMUNITY SPREAD. THE USE OF FACE COVERING BY EVERYONE CAN LIMIT RELEASE OF INFECTED DROPLETS WHEN TALKING, COUGHING, AND/OR SNEEZING.

I. RULES:

A. Subject to the exceptions set forth below, each student, employee, visitor, vendor or other person are always required to properly wear a face covering while at or inside a school/facility, or other vehicle owned, leased or operated by The School Board. **Proper wearing of a face covering, should cover both the nose and mouth of the person and should fit snugly against the sides of the person's face with no gaps.**

1. **EXCEPTIONS:** A face covering will not be required in the following instances:

a. **For All (Students, employees, vendors and visitors):**

- i. **Infants:** A face covering shall not be required for persons younger than two (2) years of age;
- ii. **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;
- iii. **Outdoors with Physical Distancing:** A face covering shall not be required for persons outside of any school district building or vehicle provided that such person maintains physical distancing (six (6) feet minimum distance) from other persons. However, a face covering shall be worn during change of classes even if it involves use of outside areas; or,
- iv. **Identification:** Administrators, security staff and other appropriate employees may ask someone to *briefly* remove their face covering to verify their identity. Physical distance will be observed during these requests, whenever possible.

b. For Students:

- i. Students with Approval:** A face covering shall not be required for a student if school administration, IEP team or 504 team authorizes the student to remove her/his face covering during an activity provided that the student maintains physical distancing (six (6) feet minimum) from other persons when not wearing a face covering;
- ii. 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 provided that the student maintains physical distancing (six (6) feet minimum) from other persons when not wearing a face covering;
- iii. Musical & Theatrical Performances:** A face covering will not be required for any student while playing a musical instrument or performing or rehearsing a choral or theatrical performance; provided that the student maintains physical distancing (six (6) feet minimum) from other persons when not wearing a face covering. 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 or theater/drama class;
- v. Strenuous Physical Activity:** A face covering shall not be required for any student inside or outside of any school district facility school district building while the student is engaged in strenuous physical activity provided that the student maintains physical distancing (six (6) feet minimum) from other persons when not wearing a face covering;
- vi. During Receipt of Health Care:** A face covering shall not be required for any student inside or outside any school district facility or building when removal of the face covering is necessary for the student to receive health care or to undergo a health care examination from authorized health care personnel; or,
- vii. Demanding Circumstances:** A face covering will not be required if a student is experiencing acute trouble breathing, is unconscious or incapacitated, or is personally unable to remove the face covering without assistance.

c. For Employees:

- i. Employees with Supervisor's Approval:** A face covering shall not be required when the school district official supervising an employee authorizes the employee to remove her/his face covering when wearing a face covering would create a safety risk to the person as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines. If this occurs, the employee must

maintain physical distancing (six (6) feet minimum) from other persons;

- ii. **Regularly Scheduled Mealtimes:** A face covering shall not be required for any employee inside or outside a school district facility while the employee is eating during a planned mealtime provided that the employee maintains physical distancing (six (6) feet minimum) from other persons when not wearing a face covering;
- iii. **Musical & Theatrical Performances:** A face covering will not be required for any employee while playing a musical instrument or performing or rehearsing a choral or theatrical performance; provided that the employee maintains physical distancing (six (6) feet minimum) from other persons when not wearing a face covering. 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 or theater/drama class;
- v. **Strenuous Physical Activity:** A face covering shall not be required for any employee inside or outside of any school district facility or building while such person is engaged in strenuous physical activity provided that the student maintains physical distancing (six (6) feet minimum) from other persons when not wearing a face covering;
- vi. **Demanding 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 face covering without assistance.

d. Visitors and Vendors:

- i. **Outdoors with Physical Distancing:** A face covering shall not be required for persons outside of any school district building or vehicle provided that such person maintains physical distancing (six (6) feet minimum distance) from other persons;
- ii. **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;
- iii. **Strenuous Physical Activity:** A face covering shall not be required for any person inside or outside of any school district facility or building while such person is engaged in strenuous physical activity;
- iv. **Musical & Theatrical Performances:** A face covering will not be required for visitors or vendors 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; or,

- v. **Demanding 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 face covering without assistance.
- 2. **FACE COVERING TYPES (Students, Vendors and Visitors):** All students, visitors and vendors must supply and wear their own face coverings while at or inside a school district campus/facility or inside a school district vehicle. The following face covering types are approved for compliance with this policy by persons other than school district employees:
 - a. **Commercially Produced Face Coverings:** Commercially produced surgical masks or respirators are acceptable for compliance with this policy;
 - 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>
- 3. **FACE COVERING TYPES (Employees):** All school district employees must wear face coverings while in a school district campus/facility or inside a school district vehicle. The School District will have face coverings available at all district facilities and in all vehicles, including school buses.
- 4. **LIMITED FACE SHIELD USE:** Face shields are less effective than commercial and cloth face coverings and may not be used by any persons to comply with this policy except under the following limited circumstances:
 - a. **In Addition to a Face Covering:** When used in addition to an approved face covering to protect eyes, as well;
 - b. **Medical Certification:** A face shield may be worn in lieu of other approved face coverings by persons who are observing physical distancing and 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,
 - c. **Instruction:** Face shields may be used by school district employees in situations where physical distancing is observed and it is important for students to see how the instructor pronounces words (e.g., English Learners, early childhood instruction, speech therapy, foreign language, etc.) and/or

an instructor may wear a clear mask when it is important for a student to observe the instructors mouth.

B. LIMITATIONS/ENFORCEMENT:

1. **NO STUDENT or EMPLOYEE:** shall wear a face covering that has markings that are suggestive, revealing, indecent¹, associated with gangs or cults, encourage the use of drugs, alcohol, or violence, or support discrimination on the basis of age, color, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, gender expression, linguistic differences, marital status, national origin, race, religion, socioeconomic background, sexual orientation, physical appearance, or any other basis. Additionally, face coverings shall not be used to promote a political party or and individual seeking elected office.
2. **EMPLOYEES:** All employees are expected to comply with the face covering requirements above for the health and safety of themselves, their colleagues, students and others. Employees who do not comply should be reminded of the policy. If they refuse to comply, after being reminded the employee may be disciplined according to their respective Collective Bargaining Agreement or other School Board Policies for insubordination.
3. **STUDENTS:** All students are expected to follow face covering requirements while in school or school sponsor activities/events for the health and safety of themselves, school staff, and others. Students who do not comply should be reminded of the policy and the student's parent will be called. If a student blatantly disregards the health and safety of others and/or refuses to comply with wearing a face covering, discipline will be in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct.
4. **VISITORS:** Members of the public and visitors should be reminded that face coverings are required while at or inside a District school/facility. A visitor will not be admitted to a District school/facility without wearing a face covering.

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: August 19, 2020

¹ Indecent, suggestive, and revealing refer to exposure of private body parts and/or pictures or words with a sexual connotation.