



GUIDELINES REGARDING FACE COVERINGS

The health and safety of students and staff are of the utmost importance of Cabell County Schools. Face coverings are important in reducing the spread of COVID-19 and are expected to be worn. The Executive Order No. 50-20 put forth by Governor Jim Justice “mandates the use of face coverings when in confined, indoor spaces, other than one’s residence or when actively engaged in the consumption of food and/or beverage, and when not able to adequately social distance from other individuals who do not reside in the same household.” The West Virginia School Re-entry toolkit also states, “Students are required to wear face coverings in congregant areas and in classrooms if they are not in their core groups and/or social distancing cannot be maintained.” The West Virginia Department of Education also allows counties to require additional measures to safeguard students and staff. Requirements for face coverings may be impacted by the additional guidelines within the color-coding system.

All students are permitted to wear their own face mask which meets the requirements set forth in the Student Code of Conduct. Disposable face masks will be available for all school staff and students. Neck gaiters are not allowed as a face covering or mask.

Cabell County students will be provided foldable desk shields which are intended to further minimize exposure and risk. If a student is behind the foldable shield, they will still be required to wear a face mask.

Students with documented medical conditions that do not allow for face masks will need to wear a face shield. Special circumstances will be addressed on an individual basis to accommodate the specific needs of the child in the learning environment. Physician documentation of accommodations to exempt a student from wearing a face covering must be provided to the school. Each case will be addressed on an individual basis.

Strategies to Support Students Wearing Face Coverings in Schools

- Encourage parents, caregivers, and guardians to practice wearing face coverings with students at home before the first day of school. If parents, caregivers, and guardians’ model appropriate use of face coverings and help students get used to wearing them, students may be more comfortable using face coverings.
- Introduce students with sensory concerns/tactile sensitivities to face coverings with a variety of materials, prints, and textures as well as allow the student to choose which face covering is most comfortable.
- Use behavioral techniques such as positive reinforcement to increase the likelihood that students will comply with face covering guidance and other prevention practices.
- Encourage parents, caregivers, and guardians to include students in the selection of their face covering and/or the material that is used to make it. This might increase a child’s acceptance of wearing the face covering.
- Display age-appropriate posters and materials with visual cues that show the proper way to wear a face covering in classrooms and hallways. Consider incorporating images of popular influencers promoting or modeling use of face coverings.
- Include reminders about face coverings in daily announcements, school newspapers, and other materials. All communication should be in an appropriate format, literacy level, and language. Consider including how to properly use, take off, and wash face coverings in back-to-school communications and educational materials.



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Elementary School Settings

- Ensure that teachers and school staff are available to help students put on and adjust face coverings as needed as well as wash or sanitize their hands with hand sanitizer that includes at least 60% alcohol before and after assisting students with face coverings.
- Play games or engage in other fun activities that teach students how to wear a face covering.
- Consider using some art materials or other creative outlets to help students understand why face coverings help reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- Share social stories about face coverings with students so they know what to expect at school. A social story is like a simple picture book that teaches students what to expect in social settings.
- Use behavioral techniques such as positive reinforcement to increase the likelihood that students will comply with face covering guidance.
- Develop incentives such as compliance challenges where classes/ grades can earn points towards winning a grade/ school competition; schools can determine incentives for winning challenges.

Middle School Settings

- Show short videos or incorporate short lessons (less than 10 minutes) that teach students how to wear a face covering. Consider including videos with celebrities, musicians, athletes, or other influencers popular among this age group.
- Follow videos with verbal instructions that demonstrate the correct ways to wear a face covering.
- Engage the class in discussions about why face coverings help reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- Incorporate a lesson into the science curriculum on how respiratory droplets spread infectious disease.
- Create a school competition for the best health communication strategy to highlight the importance of wearing a face covering to middle school students.
- Develop incentives such as compliance challenges where teams/ grade levels can earn points towards winning a grade/ school competition; schools can determine incentives for winning challenges.

High School Settings

- Show videos or incorporate lessons that teach students how to wear a face covering and include the correct and incorrect ways to wear a face covering. Consider including videos with celebrities, musicians, athletes, or other influencers popular among this age group.
- Create a school competition for the best health communication strategy to highlight the importance of wearing face coverings to high school students.
- Develop incentives such as compliance challenges where classes/ grades can earn points towards winning a grade/ school competition; schools can determine incentives for winning challenges.

Students with Special Healthcare Needs

- Ask parents, caregivers, and guardians to practice wearing face coverings at home before the student returns to school.
- Share social stories about face coverings with students so they know what to expect at school. A social story is like a simple picture book that teaches students about what to expect in social settings.
- Introduce students with sensory concerns or tactile sensitivities to face coverings with a variety of materials, prints, and textures as well as allow the student to choose which face covering is most comfortable.
- Use behavioral techniques such as positive reinforcement to increase the likelihood that students will comply with face covering guidance and other prevention practices.



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- A staff member who has a student that relies upon lip reading for communication, is hearing impaired, or is learning to read may wear a clear face covering.
- Face shields alone are not recommended as a substitute for a cloth mask, surgical mask, or clear face covering for staff members.
- CDC only recommends staff and teachers to wear clear face coverings in these special circumstances. It should be encouraged that the primary mask type worn by the student is a cloth mask or surgical mask.
- Neck gaiters are not allowed as a face covering or mask.
- If a staff member uses a clear face covering, please ensure covering is around the nose and wrapped securely around the face.
- It is encouraged that while teaching, 6 feet distance be maintained between the student and the staff member. If close contact is going to be sustained (< 6 feet), the staff member and student may consider using a face shield for additional protection.
- It should be noted face shields are not recommended for normal everyday activities, but they can be utilized for additional protection for any staff member providing one on one instruction and/or sustained close contact with students and faculty. Students also can utilize the face shield if they will have sustained contact with a staff member.
- Sustained contact can be considered an encounter that lasts >15 minutes.
- If for any reason a visual speech assessment needs to be performed on a student by a staff member, a student can briefly wear a clear mask for evaluation. It is encouraged that this is done on an individualized basis (not in a group setting) to minimize the respiratory aerosolization risk. After completion of the assessment, the student can transition at 6 feet distance back to a cloth mask or surgical mask.

If a student refuses to comply with the face covering requirement, they will go through Positive Behavior Intervention Supports.