



Student Requirements Regarding **Face Coverings**

The School District of Lee County ("District") is committed to protecting students during the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the student population, the District hereby enacts the following requirements regarding face coverings during the COVID-19 emergency:

- Effective immediately, all students attending Lee County schools must wear appropriate face coverings that cover the mouth, nose and chin when on school board property, at a school board activity or riding a bus or other approved transportation. It is requested that all students provide their own face masks.
- The wearing of a face covering is a health issue. Student compliance with wearing a face covering will be dealt with as a health issue, not as a discipline issue.
 - Students who do not have a face covering will be provided one by the District.
 - Should a student refuse to wear a face covering, the student will be isolated and the parent or guardian will be contacted.
 - Should a student repeatedly refuse to wear a face covering, the student will be enrolled in a virtual learning program.
- Students will be provided with opportunities for breaks where they can remove their face covering while maintaining appropriate social distancing under adult supervision.
- Exceptions to the face covering requirement:
 - **CDC exemptions** - Children under two will not be required to wear face coverings. Cloth face coverings should not be worn by anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
 - **Eating and drinking** - Face coverings will not be required while eating or drinking.
 - **Exemptions based on disability**
 - **Medical exemption/504 students** - Students who are requesting medical exemptions or Section 504 accommodations must provide District staff with documentation from a licensed health care provider that the student has a medical, physical or psychological contraindication that requires an accommodation or prevents the student from being able to safely wear a face covering. Upon submission of the request, a team will be convened to consider whether the request is reasonable.

- **ESE students** – Students who are unable to wear a face covering due to their disability will be educated, encouraged and expected to wear face coverings, but the inability to consistently keep a face covering on will not prohibit their attendance.
 - Alternate face coverings will be made available for students and staff who communicate with deaf or hard of hearing students, provide educational and/or related services such as speech/language services, or in any other activity that requires a visual of a person’s mouth. Where possible, face coverings with clear plastic that shows the speaker’s mouth or face shields will be required in these situations.
 - **Strenuous physical activities** - A face covering will not be required for any person inside or outside of any school district facility while engaging in strenuous physical activity. During these times, social distancing will be maintained.
 - **Outdoor activities and recess** – A face covering will not be required for students participating in outdoor activities as long as social distancing is maintained.
 - **Miscellaneous** – When participating in activities such as music, choir, band, theater and athletics where the wearing of face coverings is not practical, students will not be required to wear face coverings during the activity, but must still follow any and all safety procedures in place for the particular activity. For such activities, alternate face covering options should be considered, as appropriate.
- Face coverings should adhere to the following requirements:
 - **Commercially produced face coverings/masks** - Commercially produced masks or respirators are acceptable, but not required.
 - **Cloth face coverings** – Cloth face coverings are acceptable provided that the face covering completely covers the nose and mouth, and fits snugly to the wearer’s face with no gaps. The CDC has issued guidance on [easy ways to make a face covering](#).
 - **Face shields** – Face shields can be worn in conjunction with a face covering, but cannot be worn alone. Face shields with cloth that covers the outer edges of the shield and goes over the head will be allowed.
 - At this time, based on guidance from health authorities, open-chin triangle bandanas and face coverings containing valves/vents, mesh material, lace, holes or other largely porous material are not suitable.

This guidance shall be immediately implemented and will remain in effect until further notice.