



Guidelines regarding Face Coverings

Required Face Coverings

Each student, employee, visitor, vendor or other person must wear a face covering at all times when on or inside any property owned, leased, or operated by the School Board, including schools, administrative buildings and buses, as well as during any school or district- sponsored activity to another location. The district will provide students and staff with a supply of acceptable face coverings.

Face Covering Defined

Face coverings must cover both the mouth and nose completely and fit snugly against the sides of the person's face with little or no gaps. Face coverings must be made of solid material, and not lace, mesh, crocheted, made of other largely porous material or have exhalation valves or vents that allow air to be exhaled through a hole in the material. The school shall have the final authority to determine the acceptability of a particular face covering.

Examples of acceptable face coverings include paper or disposable face masks, cloth face masks, neck gaiters/buffs or other cloth apparel completely covering the mouth and nose. Examples of unacceptable face coverings include lace, mesh, crocheted or other masks or face coverings that are not solid material, those that have exhalation valves or vents that allow air to be exhaled through a hole in the material, face coverings that are worn so that large gaps exist between the face covering and the person's skin, and face shields.

Non-Compliance

The wearing of a face covering is a public health issue. Students who do not wear a mask when it is required (or refuse to do so), should first be reeducated on the importance of wearing a mask. If after the reeducation occurs, they still do not comply, the student's administrator should be contacted. Not wearing a mask when it is required is not a disciplinary matter, but rather a health and safety concern.

Administrators will contact the parent/guardian for support. If the refusal continues, the principal must contact the area superintendent/chief to discuss options which will include administrative placement into one of the other learning options (MyPCS Online or Pinellas Virtual School). This placement is a non-disciplinary placement and is based on the health and safety needs of all students and staff.