



FACE COVERING MEANS:

- A cloth or paper mask, scarf, bandana, gaiter, or religious face covering that covers the mouth and nose.
- A clear face shield that extends below the chin in the front, to the ears on the sides and with no gap between the forehead and the headpiece may be used in certain specific circumstances.

FACE COVERING DOES NOT MEAN:

- Any mask or other item that includes a valve, hole, gaps, or openings to facilitate easier breathing, or is made of a material such as mesh with such openings.
- Safety goggles that cover only the eyes or only the eyes and nose.

FACE COVERING (“MASK”) REQUIRED:

- Whenever I am indoors in all District buildings/facilities, except where noted under “not required”.
- When I am moving through the building - including hallways, communal spaces, and public spaces.
- When I am outdoors in situations where social distancing cannot be maintained.
- On all District-provided transportation.

WEAR YOUR FACE COVERING CORRECTLY:



Additional Resources:

[How to Safely Wear Your Mask](#)

[How to Safely Wear and Take Off a Cloth Face Covering](#)

FACE COVERING (“MASK”) NOT REQUIRED:

- When I am eating or drinking, provided social distancing is maintained.
- When I am outside, provided social distancing is maintained.
- When I am participating in indoor practices or performances involving singing, acting, public speaking, or playing musical instruments when the instrument cannot be played while wearing a face covering, provided that social distancing is always maintained.
- When I am engaging in physical activity (recess, PE) where exertion makes wearing a face covering difficult. I must replace my face covering as soon as the activity is completed.
- If I cannot tolerate a face covering due to a developmental, medical, or behavioral health condition and a medical exemption has been approved for me.
- I have an IEP/504 and am receiving specialized instruction or service where wearing a face covering is problematic, provided social distancing is maintained.

Note: Disposable face coverings are available in each STMA school office and on buses. Students are encouraged to Bring Their Own Mask (BYOM).

Disposal/Cleaning of Face Coverings:

- The same face covering or shield can be worn throughout the school day unless they become soiled or wet, in which case it should be removed for laundering/cleaning and replaced with a new, clean one.
- Masks should be laundered with regular laundry in the warmest appropriate setting for the cloth used to make the mask.
- Used disposable masks can be put in a lined trash receptacle and removed in the usual manner for school or home garbage.

Exemptions to Mandatory Face Coverings:

- Individuals with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that makes it unreasonable to maintain a face covering.
- Children who are five years old and under and not enrolled in kindergarten.
- Children who are under two years old should never wear a face covering.

Face Covering Exemption Process:

- A clear face shield may be used as an alternative face covering for students if wearing a face covering is problematic or cannot be tolerated due to a developmental, medical, or behavioral health condition (medical documentation/parent/guardian signature required).
- Students who cannot tolerate a face covering due to a developmental, medical, or behavioral health condition may be exempt from wearing a face covering. An exemption form must be signed by a parent/guardian and a medical authority. A medical authority includes a medical doctor, psychiatrist, clinical psychologist, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner (a person licensed to write prescriptions in Minnesota).