



USE OF FACE MASKS/COVERINGS

The Carlisle Board of Education is committed to providing students, staff, and visitors with a safe and healthy environment.

In order to maintain a healthy environment, the Board will follow the mandates and requirements set forth by the federal government, Center for Disease Control, Ohio Governor, Ohio State Health Department, Warren County Health Department, Ohio Department of Education, and other entities (“Directing Entities”) as it relates to the protecting the health of students, staff, and visitors. If any of these Directing Entities or Carlisle Local School District Administration requires staff, students, and/or visitors to wear face coverings/masks while attending school, reporting to work at a school, or visiting a school, the Carlisle Local School District’s Administration will follow and enforce such directives.

➔ STAFF

Pursuant to *COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools* issued by the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Education, all staff members must wear face coverings when in their classroom, instructing students, moving away from their classroom or work station or talking directly with someone within the 6 feet social distancing recommendations. While working independently in an empty classroom or at their own work station, masks may be removed.

➔ STUDENTS

Students with disabilities will be not be required to wear face coverings/masks as specified in the “exceptions” listed below. Per Governor DeWine’s mandates announced on 8-5-2020, all students in grades K-12 will be required to wear masks under the following circumstances:

- On the bus
- Entering and exiting the building
- Hallways during transition periods to class, lunch, restrooms, and recess
- In the classroom (teacher-directed face covering breaks will be implemented throughout the day)

Face coverings/masks should:

- Fully cover the mouth, nose, and chin;
- Fit snugly against the side of the nose, side of the face, and cover the chin so there are no gaps;
- Parents should maintain a clean face covering for their child;
- Not create difficulty breathing while worn; and
- Held secure through either a tie, elastic, etc. to prevent slipping.

NOTE: This policy may require updates and revisions as state and federal mandates are announced.

Face coverings/masks may include masks or face shields. Face coverings/masks are not required to be surgical masks or respirators (as those should be reserved for healthcare works), and shall not be masks designed to be worn for costume purposes, etc. All face coverings/masks shall meet the requirements of the appropriate dress code policies and/or codes of conduct.

➔ **EXCEPTIONS**

Exceptions to this face coverings policy may be made for the following:

Students:

- Children younger than 2 years old;
- Any child unable to remove the face covering without assistance;
- A child with a significant behavioral/psychological issue undergoing treatment that is exacerbated by the use of a facial covering;
- A child living with severe autism or with extreme developmental delays who may become agitated or anxious wearing a mask;
- A child with a facial deformity that causes airway obstruction.

Staff:

- Facial coverings are not required when the staff works alone in an assigned work area;
- Individuals who have received approval from Carlisle L.S.D. administration after presenting medical excuse and discussing their request not to wear a face covering/mask due to a physical, mental or developmental health condition, if wearing a mask would lead to a medical emergency or would introduce significant safety concerns.
 - In this exception, the Carlisle L.S.D. administration may also discuss other possible accommodations for the staff member. Such discussion shall follow district policies and procedures under Section 504 and the ADA.

The Carlisle Local School District is required to provide written justification to the local health officials upon request explaining why a staff member is not required to wear a facial covering in the school facilities. Therefore, if any of the above exceptions are made, the request for such exception must be submitted in writing to the individual's supervisor, and a decision on the request will be provided in writing. An individual may be required to wear a face shield or other face covering as appropriate for an accommodation of this face covering requirement.

Any school nurse or staff who care for individuals with COVID-19 symptoms must use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) in accordance with OSHA standards.

If face masks/coverings are required, and no exception has been applied, students and/or staff who violate this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the applicable Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code, staff Code of Conduct, and in accordance with policies of the Board.

If that student refuses to wear a mask they will immediately be assigned to Option 2 (Online Learning) in accordance with the Superintendent's authority to assign students contained in the Ohio Revised Code.