

# USE OF FACE MASKS/COVERINGS DURING A DECLARED PANDEMIC

*Revised 9/23/20*

Carlisle Local Schools and the Board of Education are 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 protecting the health of students. If any of these Directing Entities or district administration requires staff, students, and/or visitors to wear face coverings/masks while attending school, reporting to work at school, or visiting school, the district's administration will follow and enforce such directives.

## STAFF

As of July 2020, 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/masks.

## STUDENTS

All students in grades preK-12 will be required to wear face coverings/masks in the following areas:

- On the bus
- Entering and exiting the building
- Hallways during transition periods to class, lunch, restrooms, recess, etc
- In the classroom when working in small groups, at lab stations, and when social distancing cannot be maintained (within six feet for longer than 15 minutes)

Face coverings/masks should:

- Fully cover the mouth, nose, and chin
- Masks must fit snugly against the side of the face; shield must reach the bottom of the chin and wrap around jaw line (shields-rather than a face mask/covering-can only be worn with special permission)
- Be made of non-porous material
- Not create difficulty breathing while worn
- Held secure to prevent slipping

Face coverings/masks shall not include surgical masks or respirators (as those should be reserved for healthcare works), 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 covering/mask policy may be made for the following:

- Children younger than 2 years old
- Anyone who has trouble breathing

- Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering/ mask without assistance
- Facial coverings/masks are in violation of documented industry standards and/or safety policies
- Facial coverings/masks will significantly interfere with the learning process
- Individuals who have received approval from district administration after 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. A physician’s letter is required.
  - In this exception, the district administration may also discuss other possible accommodations for the student or 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/mask in the school. Therefore, if any of the above exceptions are made, the request for such exception must be submitted in writing to the individual’s supervisor (with accompanying physician’s letter), 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/mask as appropriate for an accommodation of this face covering requirement.

Any school nurse or staff members who care for individuals with COVID-19 symptoms must use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in accordance with OSHA standards.

If face coverings/masks 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 established by the Board of Education.

If a student refuses to wear a mask, they will immediately be assigned to Model 2 (Remote Learning) in accordance with the Superintendent’s authority to assign students contained in the Ohio Revised Code.

## OHIO PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY SYSTEM

*The Public Health Advisory Alert System is a color-coded system designed to supplement existing statewide orders through a data-driven framework to assess the degree of the virus’ spread and to engage and empower individuals, businesses, communities, local governments, and others in their response and actions*

<p><b>YELLOW</b></p> <p><b>ORANGE</b></p> <p><b>RED</b></p> <p><b>PURPLE</b></p>	<p><b>LEVEL 1</b> - Active exposure and spread</p> <p><b>LEVEL 2</b> - Increased exposure and spread. Exercise high degree of caution</p> <p><b>LEVEL 3</b> - Very high exposure and spread. Limit activities as much as possible</p> <p><b>LEVEL 4</b> - Severe exposure and spread. Only leave home for supplies/services</p>
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