

FACE COVERINGS

Face Coverings

Any face covering requirement shall comport with the mandates of any Federal directive, executive order of the Governor, administrative order of the State Director of Emergency Management, or order of a state, county or local health department having jurisdiction over the school district.

In the event of a health, environmental or any unforeseen emergency requiring face coverings, the chief school administrator will consult with experts in the field of said emergency, including but not limited to local school nursing staff, school physician, local Board of Health, state department of health, local and state environmental protection agencies to evaluate the need for face coverings. After consultation with field experts, the chief school administrator may at his/her discretion instate a face covering requirement and require staff, students and visitors to use face coverings in the indoor portion of the school district premises or in certain classes or school areas where social distancing cannot be implemented.

The chief school administrator shall inform the board president prior to initiating any universal face covering requirement.

- A. When staff, students and visitors are required to wear face coverings, they must do so unless any of the following exceptions apply:
1. When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;
 2. When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face coverings without assistance;
 3. When a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an individualized education program (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes use of a face covering;
 4. When a student's documented medical condition, as reflected in an individualized health care plan (IHP) precludes use of a face covering;
 5. When the individual is under two (2) years of age;
 6. When the individual is engaged in activity that cannot physically be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating or drinking, or playing a musical instrument that would be obstructed by a face covering;
 7. When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity;
 8. When a student is participating in high-intensity physical activities during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals;
or
 9. When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task;

FACE COVERINGS (continued)

Students and staff being transported in connection with school-related activities shall continue to adhere to current CDC and DOH guidelines for public transportation.

- B. Individuals shall be frequently reminded not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently;
- C. Information shall be provided to staff, students, and students' families on proper mask hygiene, including use, removal, storage/maintenance, and washing of face coverings;
- D. The use of face shields may not be used as a substitute for face coverings. However, they may be an option for students with medical or other challenges that preclude the use of face coverings. If face shields are used without a mask, they should wrap around the sides of the wearer's face and extend to below the chin;
- E. Students and educators that rely on facial cues may consider the use of clear face coverings where available. This might include students who are deaf or hard of hearing, students receiving speech/language services, young students in early education programs, and English-language learners;
- F. Researchers have identified "frequent discomfort" as a potential challenge associated with implementing use of face covering requirements. Students and staff shall be provided face covering breaks throughout the day. Face covering breaks should only occur when social distancing can be maintained and ideally outside or with windows open ("Physical Distancing, face coverings, and eye protection to prevent person-to-person transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis");

Approved: May 2022

References: N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.6
 through -4.8
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-4

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-4.4
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-4.5
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-5
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-6
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-7, -8,

 -10, -11

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.37
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-20
N.J.S.A. 26:1A-9.1
N.J.S.A. 26:4-6
N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.4

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.1et seq.
 See particularly:
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.1, -1.3,

Parents Right to Conscience Act of 1979
 Examination for physical defects and screening of hearing of pupils; health records
 Exemption
 Immunity from action of any kind due to provisions of act
 Method of examination; notice to parent or guardian
 In general

Exclusion of pupils who are ill
 Release to share medical information
 Immunization at public expense
 Exemption of pupils from mandatory immunizations
 Prohibiting attendance of teachers or pupils
 Evaluation

Programs to Support Student Development

FACE COVERINGS (continued)

-2.1, -2.2, -2.3, -2.4	
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:57-4.3	Medical exemptions
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:57-4.4	Religious exemptions
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:57-4.5	Provisional admission
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:57-4.7	Records required
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:57-4.8	Reports to be sent to the State Department of Health
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:57-4.9	Records available for inspection
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:57-4.22	Emergency power of the Commissioner, Department of Health and Senior

20 U.S.C.A. 1232h Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment

Executive Order No. 251, Governor Philip D. Murphy, August 6, 2021.

Executive Order No. 253, Governor Philip D. Murphy, August 23, 2021.

The NJDOE Guidance: *The Road Back: Restart and Recovery* at:
<https://www.nj.gov/education/reopening/>

The NJDOE Guidance: *The Road Forward: Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year* at: [The Road Forward \(nj.gov\)](https://www.nj.gov/education/reopening/)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Your Guide to Masks" (Jan. 21.2022)

Possible

<u>Cross References:</u>	*1410	Local units
	*4123	Classroom aides
	*5111	Admission
	*5113	Absences and excuses
	*5131.6	Drugs, alcohol, tobacco (substance abuse)
	*5141	Health
	*5141.21	Administering medication
	*5200	Nonpublic school pupils
	*6142.4	Physical education and health
	*6145.1/6145.2	Intramural competition; interscholastic competition
	*6162.5	Research
	*6164.4	Child study team
	*6171.4	Special education