

Bellevue

COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
HEALTH OFFICE

RE: Student Face Covering Guidelines

At this time during the Covid-19 pandemic, it was decided to require staff and students to wear face coverings when 6 feet of social distancing can not be maintained. Some examples would include riding the bus, in the hallways between classes and when standing in line for lunch.



Wearing face coverings does not replace the need to continue frequent hand washing, avoiding touching the face, staying home when you are ill, and practicing physical distancing, which in combination, are all our best strategies to help prevent the spread of illness.

The following outlines the basic guidelines for wearing face coverings at school. Covid-19 recommendations change frequently based on the most recent evidence to protect against the virus. Bellevue Community Schools guidelines for wearing face coverings will change as we learn more and learn what feasibly works for our environment.

Guidelines for wearing cloth face coverings are as follows:

Types of Face coverings allowed:

- All types of face coverings are allowed with the exception of masks with valves and those with offensive print (same as the language not allowed on clothing such as alcohol, etc.)
- The face covering must cover the nose and the mouth.

Face coverings worn properly should:

- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face and should cover both the nose and the mouth but allow for breathing without restriction.
- A face covering should not be worn if the person has trouble breathing or the person cannot remove the face covering without assistance.

General information

- Face coverings are REQUIRED at times when social distancing is not possible.
- Some people are not able to wear a face covering for medical or developmental reasons. In these situations please contact the building principal or school nurse to discuss.
- Face covering will not be placed on or taken off of a student by school personnel.
- Sharing, trying on, or touching others' face coverings is not allowed.
- Students are not allowed to bring masks for peers/friends
- It is recommended that students bring their own from home to allow for proper fitting and personal preference and it should be labeled with the student's name somewhere on the item. The school will provide a face covering to use at school if the student does not have one.
- At a minimum, it's recommended that 2 be at school on a given day. 1 to wear, and 1 as a replacement if it is soiled. More are encouraged. The extra can be stored in a separate, labeled bag, with the student's name.

Taking cloth masks on and off

1. Face covering will need to be taken off and on during the day, for example, to eat lunch. It is best practice to minimize taking the face covering on and off as much as possible.
2. Avoid touching the outside of the face coverings
3. Wash/sanitize hands before and after touching a face covering
4. At school, face coverings not in use should be placed in the designated individual's labeled bag or container, on a clean area on the table at lunch, or other areas in the classroom that are clean.

Reusing/washing masks

- Ideally, a cloth mask should be washed after each use. In the case of wearing it during the school day, mask should be washed each night before wearing it again the next day
- Due to short supply, disposable masks are being reused during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - It is recommended that disposable masks be discarded if they become visibility soiled, wet, or damaged.
 - After a school-day of wearing a disposable mask, if it is in good condition, it is recommended that the mask sit for at least 72 hours before being worn again.
 - A suggested system is to have 5 disposable masks and rotate the use.
 - Label 5 paper bags (1 through 5) at home (the school will also be providing bags for students to keep their masks at school).
 - After wearing "day one" mask, place back in bag #1.
 - Wear an individual mask each day in order and replace back in the coordinating bag.
 - When you return to bag labeled #1, it will be over 72 hours

Updated 8/18/2020