

HARRISBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT

Protocol face coverings, face shields for staff and students

It is now established that asymptomatic people can spread the virus that causes COVID-19, and this is a significant contributor to person-to-person spread. Face coverings decrease the spread of COVID-19 as “source control” of a contagious person’s respiratory secretions. Use of face coverings does not change physical distancing requirements.

It is important to prepare younger children to wear face coverings safely and effectively. This includes instruction on how to properly wear a face covering, desensitization support (getting used to wearing face coverings), recommended materials for homemade face coverings, proper care and cleaning, and how to allow for “face covering breaks” during instruction. Each main office will have face coverings for students to use if they do not come with their own from home.

Clear plastic face shields may be preferred in some instances because they enable students to see whole faces. This avoids potential barriers to phonological instruction and reinforces social emotional cues.

- Face coverings are required for all students in grades kindergarten and up, along with all staff. Certain accommodations are noted in the CDC guidance below.
- If a student removes a face covering, or demonstrates a need to remove the face covering for a short period of time:
 - Provide space away from peers while the face covering is removed; students should not be left alone or unsupervised;
 - Provide additional instructional supports to effectively wear a face covering;
 - Provide students adequate support to re-engage in safely wearing a face covering;
 - Students cannot be discriminated against or disciplined for an inability to wear a face covering during the school day.

CDC guidelines for Face Coverings: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

Students who abstain from wearing a face covering, or students whose families determine the student will not wear a face covering, during On-Site instruction will be directed to our Harrisburg Online Program, HOP for distance learning for the semester. However, additional provisions apply to students protected under ADA and IDEA.

If any student requires an accommodation to meet the requirement for face coverings, districts and schools should work to limit the student’s proximity to students and staff to the extent possible to minimize the possibility of exposure. Appropriate accommodations could include:

- Offering different types of face coverings and face shields that may meet the needs of the student.
- Spaces away from peers while the face covering is removed; students should not be left alone or unsupervised.

- Short periods of the educational day that do not include wearing the face covering, while following the other health strategies to reduce the spread of disease;
- Additional instructional supports to effectively wear a face covering.

For students with existing medical conditions, doctor's orders to not wear face coverings, or other health related concerns, schools must not deny access to On-Site instruction.