

**Frequently Asked Questions**  
Reopening of Schools at ACOVSD  
8/13/2020

**Facility Preparations**

**1. What more is being done to clean the building?**

- Hiring additional cleaning staff that will focus solely on sanitation and touch-point cleaning.
- Added several microfiber, portable cleaning stations that will allow for frequent and efficient cleaning of desks, counter tops, and cafeteria tables.
- Purchased sanitation room misters that will administer Vital Oxide, an odorless, hypoallergenic, cleaning agent that is FDA approved for school use. Vital Oxide is effective in killing 99.99% of viruses and bacteria including Sars-Cov-2 (COVID-19).

**2. Any plexiglass partitions installed in the building?**

- Installation of glass and plexiglass partitions at various locations throughout each of the school buildings.

**3. What upgrades have been made to the HVAC System?**

- Upgraded MERV13 Filtration in building HVAC systems which meet and exceed CDC and ODE recommendation for COVID-19.
- Added electrostatic filters to HVAC equipment as an additional layer of air filtration.

**4. Any additional hand sanitizer stations?**

- Added over 400 hand sanitizer dispensers across the school district.

**5. How will students enter the building?**

- Refer to your building for guidance.

**6. What will signage in the buildings be used for?**

- To remind staff and students of social distancing, safety protocols, and hygiene.

**7. How will classrooms be arranged?**

- To promote social distancing between teacher and students.

**8. Have spaces in the building been reviewed for social distancing, special needs, and new medical needs?**

- Yes. Classrooms (unnecessary furniture removed), cafeteria (additional tables; adjoining areas of cafeteria for overflow), hallways in elementary schools (teachers using carts to move from room to room) and in high schools (staggered bell times and signage promoting one way traffic).

**9. Will students be provided directions to new procedures and protocol in the buildings?**

- Staff will be expected to teach the students about social distancing, safety protocols, and hygiene. Time will be spent during the first few days of school reviewing the new procedures.

**Signs of Illness and Nurse's Office**

**1. When should staff stay home based on symptoms?**

- Any staff member with a fever over 100°F should stay home.
- Any staff member that has the following symptoms should stay at home & should see his/her primary care provider:
- Any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing

**OR**

- Two of the following symptoms: fever, chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, GI Issues (nausea and vomiting or diarrhea)

**OR**

- Any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, GI issues (nausea and vomiting or diarrhea) **and** an epidemiological link (confirmed or suspected) case of COVID-19.
- If a staff member is diagnosed as having COVID-19, they must meet the following criteria to return to school:
  - Three (3) days with no fever (without using fever reducing medication) **And**
  - Other symptoms improved **And**
  - 10 days since symptoms first appear.
- Staff members that only have a fever and no other symptoms and have not had any contact with an individual that has had COVID-19 may return to school after they are

fever free for 24 hours without using any fever reducing medications.

## **2. When should students stay home based on symptoms?**

### PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

- Any student with a fever over 100°F should stay home.
- Any student that has the following symptoms should stay at home & should see his/her primary care provider:
- Any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing

### **OR**

- Two of the following symptoms: fever, chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, GI Issues (nausea and vomiting or diarrhea)

### **OR**

- Any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, GI issues (nausea and vomiting or diarrhea) **and** an epidemiological link (confirmed or suspected) case of COVID-19.

### PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

- If a student is diagnosed as having COVID-19, they must meet the following criteria to return to school:
  - Three (3) days with no fever (without using fever reducing medication) **And**
  - Other symptoms improved **And**
  - 10 days since symptoms first appeared
  - To return to school, the child must be transported to the school by the parent/caregiver and must be checked by the school nurse.
- Students that only have a fever and no other symptoms and have not had any contact with an individual that has had COVID-19 may return to school after they are fever free for 24 hours without using any fever reducing medications.
- Any other illnesses should be handled in the routine manner according to district policies.

## **3. What happens if a staff member becomes ill while at school?**

- The staff member will be assessed to determine if they are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.

## **4. What happens if a student becomes ill while at school?**

- The student will be assessed to determine if they are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms. If

COVID-19 symptoms exist, the student will be quarantined until a parent/caregiver picks the student up from school.

## **Communication**

1. **Questions or concerns regarding COVID-19:** Please contact the Adams County Health Department at 937-544-5547 or 937-544-2314 (after hours is the Adams County Sheriff Department).
2. **How will changes involving the operation of the school district be communicated?**
  - District website (**ovsd.us**) (live feed, news, Facebook), local newspapers, C103.
  - Email to staff, building level meetings, labor management committee
3. **When will staff and students receive training with new procedures, processes, and safe ways of conducting school?**
  - For staff, during August 17th and August 18th Staff In-service Days and ongoing. Public School Works training.
  - For students, safety protocol and procedures will be reviewed with the students the first few days of school and ongoing. Signage will be used throughout the building to remind both staff and students.
  - School nurses (hired through the Adams County Health Department) in cooperation with our medical aides will be valuable resources in providing information and services to keep students and staff informed and safe.
4. **Will the staff and students review other safety drills mandated by law?**
  - Yes. Lock-down drills, tornado drills, and fire drills will be reviewed at the beginning of the school year. Please note the document "School Drills and Fire Safety During COVID-19 Pandemic" :

<https://www.com.ohio.gov/documents/TB20-002SchoolDrillsandFireSafetyDuringCovid-19Pandemic.pdf>

## USE OF FACE COVERINGS

Recognizing the importance of face coverings (masks) as one of the comprehensive measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Board directs the Superintendent to work with the local health department to develop procedures, considering the guidance provided by the Ohio Department of Health and all the available science, for the use of face coverings in the District, at activities under the control of the District and on District provided transportation. The use of face coverings is one part of the comprehensive plan in place for students and staff health.

Recognizing that available scientific information and local needs may change, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to continue to review and adjust face covering procedures in consultation with health officials. All face covering procedures and any changes to procedures must be clearly communicated to all staff, volunteers, parents and students in a timely manner. At no time may the Superintendent require any less for face coverings than may be required by law or health department requirement.

At minimum, face coverings should be cloth/fabric and be properly worn to cover an individual's nose, mouth, and chin.

### Staff and Volunteers

All staff and volunteers who do not meet one of the listed exceptions are required to wear face coverings in the work setting unless it is unsafe to do so or doing so would significantly interfere with the learning process. Exceptions include:

1. Facial coverings in the school setting are prohibited by law or regulation;
2. Facial coverings are in violation of documented industry standards;
3. Facial coverings are not advisable for health reasons;
4. Facial coverings are in violation of the school's documented safety policies;
5. Facial coverings are not required when the staff works alone in an assigned work area;
6. There is a functional (practical) reason for a staff member or volunteer to not to wear a facial covering in the workplace.

The District must provide written justification to local health officials, upon request, explaining why a staff member is not required to wear a face covering in the school.

School nurses or staff who care for individuals with symptoms must use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) provided by the District in accordance with all current Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards.

## Students

The Board directs the Superintendent to work in consultation with local health officials to develop detailed procedures for the use of face coverings by students that consider all available science. In drafting these procedures, the Superintendent will take into consideration currently available guidance from state and local health departments with the understanding that this guidance will continue to change over time. These procedures must address the use of face coverings by students in all environments under control by the District as well as requirements based on age or grade level for student use of face coverings. The procedures provide direction for parents when there is a health or developmental reason for which a student cannot wear a face covering. The District will take steps to reduce any social stigma for students who, for medical or developmental reasons, cannot and should not wear a face covering.

## Additional considerations

The District provides staff training and age appropriate instruction for students on appropriate use of face coverings and PPE.

The Board directs the Superintendent to develop procedures for when face shields may be considered as a preapproved alternative where cloth face coverings would hinder the learning process, including but not limited to the following situations:

1. When interacting with students, such as those with disabilities, where communication could be impacted;
2. When interacting with English-language learners or when teaching a foreign language;
3. In settings where cloth face coverings might present a safety hazard (i.e., science labs);
4. For individuals who have difficulty wearing a cloth face covering.

**5. Reference student handbook.** (c) clothing, facial coverings and accessories such as backpacks, patches, jewelry, notebooks, etc., must not display (1) racial or ethnic slurs/symbols, (2) gang affiliations, (3) vulgar, subversive, sexually suggestive language or images; nor, should they promote violence or products which students may not legally buy; (such as alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs). (d) questions concerning specific types of dress and/or appearance should be directed to the building administrator.

The Board directs the Superintendent to develop procedures for face coverings for all visitors, contractors and other individuals on District property in addition to the procedures addressed herein for employees, volunteers and students. Such procedures must be appropriately communicated.

The Board directs the Superintendent to determine the need for disposable face coverings to be provided in buildings where appropriate and necessary.

[Adoption date: August 4, 2020]

LEGAL REF.: ORC 3313.20(A)

CONTRACT REFS.: Teachers' Negotiated Agreement  
Support Staff Negotiated Agreement



## DIRECTOR'S ORDER

### **Re: Director's Order Requiring the Use of Facial Coverings in Child Education Settings**

I, Lance D. Himes, Interim Director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), pursuant to the authority granted to me in R.C. 3701.13 to "make special orders...for preventing the spread of contagious or infectious diseases" **Order** the following to prevent the spread of COVID-19 into the State of Ohio:

1. **Facial Coverings (Masks).** Except as provided herein, all students, faculty, and staff in any child care setting, school building, or other location that provides care or education to any child in kindergarten through grade twelve in the State of Ohio shall wear facial coverings at all times when:
  - a. In any indoor location including, but not limited to, classrooms, gymnasiums, offices, locker rooms, hallways, cafeteria, and/or locker bays;
  - b. Outdoors on school property and unable to consistently maintain a distance of six feet or more from individuals who are not members of their household;
  - c. Waiting for a school bus outdoors and unable to maintain a distance of six feet or more from individuals who are not members of their household; or
  - d. Riding a school bus.

For purposes of this Order, a facial covering (mask) is any material that covers an individual's nose, mouth and chin.

2. **Exemptions.** The requirement to wear a facial covering does not apply when:
  - a. The individual has a medical condition including respiratory conditions that restricts breathing, mental health conditions, or a disability that contraindicates the wearing of a facial covering; or
  - b. The individual is communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired or has another disability, where an accommodation is appropriate or necessary;
  - c. The individual is actively participating in outdoor recess and/or physical activity where students are able to maintain a distance of six feet or more or athletic practice, scrimmage, or competition that is permitted under a separate Department of Health Order;
  - d. The individual is seated and actively consuming food or beverage;
  - e. Where students and staff can maintain distancing of at least six feet and removal of the facial covering is necessary for instructional purposes, including instruction in foreign language, English language for non-native speakers, and other subjects where wearing a

facial covering would prohibit participation in normal classroom activities, such as playing an instrument;

- f. Students are able to maintain a distance of six feet or more and a mask break is deemed necessary by the educator supervising the educational setting;
  - g. The individual is alone in an enclosed space, such as an office; or
  - h. When an established sincerely held religious requirement exists that does not permit a facial covering.
3. **Duration:** This Order shall be effective at 12:01 a.m. on August 14, 2020 and remains in full force and effect until the State of Emergency declared by the Governor no longer exists or the Director of the Ohio Department of Health rescinds or modifies this Order, whichever occurs sooner.
4. **Conflicting Orders:** The requirements of this Order are controlling and effective over any conflicting provisions of the "Director's Order for Facial Coverings throughout the State of Ohio", issued on July 23, 2020.

Accordingly, I hereby **ORDER** that all persons wear facial coverings subject to the circumstances and requirements of this Order. This Director's Order shall remain in full force and effect until the State of Emergency declared by the Governor no longer exists, or the Director of the Ohio Department of Health rescinds or modifies this Order. To the extent any public official enforcing this Director's Order has questions regarding the effect of this Order, the Director of Health hereby delegates to local health departments the authority to answer questions in writing and consistent with this Order.



Lance D. Himes  
Interim Director of Health

August 13, 2020