Slate Valley Unified School District
Mask Parameters-Students and Families
As of August 24, 2020

1. Masks are required for all Students in the building.
2. Masks are required outside when physical distancing as mandated (as this can change) is not able to be maintained (students should follow the direction of their teacher who will provide updates).
3. Acceptable forms of masks are:
    a. Cloth face covering 2 ply that cover the nose and go securely below the chin with ear loops, not ties.
    b. Surgical mask that cover the nose and go securely below the chin pinching the metal insert to form fit over the bridge of the nose
    c. KN95 masks that cover the nose and go securely below the chin pinching the metal insert to form fit over the bridge of the nose
    d. N95 masks-mostly for the nurses, but you may use them if you prefer, but they are not necessary unless you are in the presence of someone with COVID like symptoms receiving an aerosolized treatment such as a nebulizer treatment. (Hartford Healthcare, 2020)
    e. Parents should be introducing masks and teaching children how to safely put them on and off prior to the start of school so they are independent to the extent possible.
    f. Masks must follow the dress code procedure (no inappropriate words, design, or pictures).
4. Unacceptable forms of Masks:
    a. Knitted mask
    b. One layer cloth mask
    c. Bandanas
    d. Neck gaiters
    e. Masks with vents-CDC does not recommend use of masks or cloth masks for source control if they have an exhalation valve or vent (CDC, August, 2020)
5. Face Shields can be added to anyone who would like to add extra protection, but they do not replace wearing a mask and face shields are not necessary if maintaining 6 feet of distance.
6. Exceptions for removing a mask while wearing a face shield:
    a. Those who have physician orders to not wear a mask in school with documented diagnosis.
    b. For students who are deaf, hard of hearing or struggle with communication while wearing a mask can remove their mask during direct services with their teacher or speech language pathologist (SLP). Masks with clear panels are recommended for educators providing services to the students. The student will keep on the face shield and as much distance as possible between them while services are provided.
    c. Students requiring interventions under rule 4500. See the specific guidelines for care during and after interventions for both students and staff.

      d. Masks need to be washed after every use at the end of the day. Having several on hand will be more convenient.

7. Wearing a mask correctly:
      a. Wash your hands before putting on your mask
      b. Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
      c. Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
      d. Make sure you can breathe easily (CDC, August, 2020)

8. Students' cloth face coverings should be clearly identified with their names or initials, to avoid confusion or swapping.

9. Students' face coverings may also be labeled to indicate top/bottom and front/back to help them put it on correctly..

10. When not in use, facial coverings should be stored in individually labeled containers or paper bags. Breakaway lanyards can also be utilized for students to wear and clip their mask onto it.

11. Face coverings should be washed:
- every evening (hand washing with soap water and hanging to dry overnight or washing machine)
- before being used again if a weekend
- or if visibly soiled

12. KN95 and N95 masks can be reused after sitting for 3 days in a paper bag. Having three will provide for 1 to always be available for use. If visibly soiled, it should be discarded.

13. Please consult with the District COVID Coordinator, Deborah Hanson, M.Ed., BSN, RN, School Nurse Leader with any questions or concerns. dhanson@svuvt.org

References

Agency of Education and Department of Health (August, 2020). A Strong and Healthy Start, Safety and

    Health Guidance for Reopening Schools, Fall 2020. Retrieved from: https://education.vermont

    .gov/sites/aoe/files/documents/edu-vdh-guidance-strong-healthy-start-school-health-updated-8-1

    .pdf

CDC (August, 2020) How to Wear Masks. Retrieved from: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/

    prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wear-cloth-face-coverings.html

Hartford HealthCare (2020). Masks Save Lives: Duke Study Confirms Which Ones Work Best. Retrieved

From: https://hartfordhealthcare.org/about-us/news-press/news-detail?articleid=27691&publicId=395