



MADISON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Department of Special Services

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Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. I am writing as a follow-up to my [July 29, 2020 communication](#) regarding guidance on face coverings. You will recall that in addition to the guidance document, an accompanying survey was sent out to parents regarding not only their child's face covering tolerance but also the types of face coverings you as parents have found to be successful for your children. The district received an overwhelming amount of responses with a multitude of information pertaining to the types/kinds/brands of face coverings our students have been wearing this summer. While the district recognizes the importance of allowing student choice when it comes to face coverings, we feel it important to outline the types of face coverings that have proven to be effective both from a safety and comfort standpoint. The input regarding the safety has come from guidance from local and state health officials as well as the CDC. The data pertaining to comfort and wearability has come from you as parents. Thank you for your continued support. Below you will find a list of face covering types as well as guidance on those which are cause for concern.

Surgical Masks

A number of survey respondents indicated that their children have found success wearing disposable surgical masks. Many note their breathability as a critical factor. Such face coverings are disposable and therefore may require frequent replenishment. The NJ Department of Health has communicated that surgical masks, which are disposable, should be changed daily or when visibly soiled, damp or damaged. If this is the chosen form of face covering for your child, the district kindly asks that you provide your child with at least two of these masks per day.

Cloth Face Masks/Coverings

A significant number of survey respondents indicated positive experience with cloth face coverings. While the specific types and brands vary, numerous parents indicated positive experience with cloth face coverings that are easily washed/sanitized and safely re-worn.

Recent guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health has indicated that cloth face coverings should be washed after every day of use and/or before being used again, or if visibly soiled or damp/wet. If this is the chosen type of face covering for your child, the district asks that you provide your child with at least two of these items per day.

According to survey responses, a number of parents have found success with the following brands:

[Joah Love Masks](#)

[Jannu](#)

[Martex Health Masks](#)

[LA made](#)

[Athleta](#)

[HoneybeesAprons](#)

[VIDA](#)

[Crayola Face Masks](#)

[Old Navy](#)

Gaiters

In addition to the disposable surgical masks and cloth face masks, a number of respondents also indicated that they have found success with neck gaiters. Recently, a Duke University Study raised some concern over the efficacy of neck gaiters, however, further information indicated that more investigation into the specifics and purpose of the study was warranted. On August 27, 2020, the CDC provided updated guidance on [How to Select, Wear, and Clean](#) face coverings. The CDC cautioned against the use of gaiters due to inconsistent information on their appropriateness.

Given the concerns regarding the effectiveness of gaiters as a proper face covering, *the district asks that parents choose a different option for their children to wear while attending school.* The district's position may change pending updated guidance from the CDC.

Important Information for Consideration

While the district is in support of students and families selecting face coverings of their own choosing, the district will not allow students and staff to wear face masks with an exhalation valve or vent as they have been proven to allow virus particles to escape into the air. Additionally, if there is concern regarding the efficacy of a particular cloth face covering, district personnel will confer with parents regarding a more appropriate choice for their child.

In previous communications, the district has expressed that only students with medical documentation will be granted accommodations with regard to the requirement to wear face coverings at all times. Parents who plan to seek such accommodations are encouraged to present the appropriate medical documentation to the School Nurse as soon as possible. Individuals with specific questions may contact me directly at Santoraf@madisonnjps.org.

The district is grateful for your continued support and dedication.

Regards,

Frank Santora

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