

Blaine School District

## REQUIREMENT OF UNIVERSAL FACE COVERINGS

In compliance with the Washington State Department of Health, Governor Inslee, and OSPI, all students, staff, and visitors to the Blaine schools and district office are required to wear an appropriate face covering. Face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms or has mild symptoms. Anyone two years of age or older is required to wear a face covering unless they have a documented medical condition or disability that may cause a safety hazard.

Masks will be available at each school building upon arrival for any students or visitors who do not have one.

### Purpose:

Face masks are one tool utilized for preventing the spread of disease. When someone talks, coughs, or sneezes they may release tiny drops into the air that can infect others. If someone is ill a face mask can reduce the number of germs that the wearer releases and can protect other people from becoming sick. A face mask may also protect the wearer's nose and mouth from splashes or sprays of body fluids, including some respiratory droplets.

### What Type of Mask Complies With This Order?

- Individuals must wear a face covering that covers the nose and mouth, and that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops around the ears or is wrapped around the lower face.
- Face coverings can be made of synthetic or natural fabrics, and can include plastic face shields that cover the nose and mouth.
- May be factory-made, hand sewn, or improvised from items like scarves, bandanas, etc.
- Face shields are acceptable for specific uses, but do not provide as much protection unless they have a fabric seal around the shoulders.

### Proper Mask Care:

- Masks should be washed or replaced daily.
- Students will be taught how to properly store masks to minimize contamination.
- Masks should be worn over the nose and mouth, and have minimal gapping along the sides or bottom.
- Hand hygiene should be performed before and after placing and removing mask (when feasible)

### Mask Breaks:

According to the Washington State Department of Health, most people should wear a face covering in all indoor public places, and outdoors when you can't stay over six feet apart. Students may have planned face covering breaks occasionally during the day, as long as CDC safety guidelines can be upheld.

### Sample occasions for facial covering breaks:

- Eating or drinking while at least 6 feet apart
- Engaged in outdoor activity more than 6 feet apart
- While operating equipment or completing tasks that make mask wearing unsafe

### Additional Resources:

- CDC Considerations for School Reopening- [Considerations for Schools](#)
- OSPI District Reopening Planning Guidelines- [Reopening Washington Schools 2020 District Planning Guide](#)
- WA State Department of Health
  - Face Coverings Questions- [Face Masks or Cloth Face Covering](#)
  - Guidance for Families: [Reopening Washington Schools 2020 District Planning Guide](#)