

## 2170 FACE COVERINGS

### PURPOSE:

ARTICLE IX, SECTION 1(A) OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION PROVIDES:

#### 1. SECTION 1. PUBLIC EDUCATION.-

**(A) THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IS A FUNDAMENTAL VALUE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA. IT IS, THEREFORE, A PARAMOUNT DUTY OF THE STATE TO MAKE ADEQUATE PROVISION FOR THE EDUCATION OF ALL CHILDREN RESIDING WITHIN ITS BORDERS. ADEQUATE PROVISION SHALL BE MADE BY LAW FOR A UNIFORM, EFFICIENT, *SAFE*, SECURE, AND HIGH QUALITY SYSTEM OF FREE PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT ALLOWS STUDENTS TO OBTAIN A HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION...**

**(Emphasis added.)**

**THE SCHOOL BOARD'S HIGHEST PRIORITY IS TO ENSURE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ITS COMMUNITY INCLUDING EMPLOYEES, STUDENTS AND THE PUBLIC. THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (FDOH) ADVISE THAT ALL PEOPLE PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN REDUCING COMMUNITY SPREAD. THE USE OF A FACE COVERING BY EVERYONE CAN LIMIT THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS AND THE RELEASE OF INFECTED DROPLETS WHEN BREATHING, TALKING, COUGHING, AND/OR SNEEZING.**

### I. RULES:

1. In recognition of Florida statutes and other factors, the wearing of face coverings by all students and employees while inside a school building, district facility, and district-owned or leased vehicles are strongly encouraged but **OPTIONAL**.
2. In recognition of local health conditions, the wearing of face coverings by all visitors and vendors while inside a school building, district facility, and district-owned or leased vehicles are **MANDATORY**.
3. In the event circumstances involving the pandemic change and necessitates the District to reconsider the implementation of facial coverings within the District for visitors and vendors, the Superintendent has the authority to adjust the application of the face covering policy from optional to mandatory or mandatory to optional.

In any event, which facial coverings become mandatory for vendors or visitors, it will be in accordance with the provisions below.

- A. **Subject to the EXCEPTIONS set forth below**, each visitor or vendor must properly wear a face covering while at or inside a school campus, district facility, a vehicle owned, leased or operated by The School Board (unless traveling alone) or a school/district sponsored activity. **Proper wearing of an approved face covering, means the face covering should cover both the nose and mouth of the person and should fit snugly against the sides of the person's face with no gaps. This includes:**

**Musical and Theatrical Performances:** A face covering will be required for all individuals while playing a musical instrument (unless said instrument

requires the use of the mouth) or performing or rehearsing for a choral or theatrical performance. This includes the singing of the National Anthem, school alma maters, or other songs. Individuals will have the option of removing their facecovering during live performances only.

**1. EXCEPTIONS:** A face covering will not be required in the following instances:

**a. For All (Vendors and Visitors):**

- i. Infants:** A face covering shall not be required for persons younger than two (2) years of age; or,
- ii. Outdoors:** A face covering shall not be required for persons outside of any school district building or vehicle; or,
- iii. Identification:** Administrators, security staff and other appropriate employees may ask someone to *briefly* remove their face covering to verify their identity. Physical distance will be observed during these requests, whenever possible.

**b. Visitors and Vendors:**

- i. Regularly Scheduled Mealtimes:** A face covering shall not be required for any person inside or outside a school district facility while such person is eating during a planned mealtime; or,
- ii. Strenuous Physical Activity:** A face covering shall not be required for any person while such person is engaged in strenuous physical activity; or,
- iii. Extracurricular Athletic Team Activities:** Visitors participating in indoors or outdoors practice or competition are required to wear face coverings at all times; or,
- iv. Demanding Circumstances:** A face covering will not be required if a person is experiencing acute trouble breathing, is unconscious or incapacitated. A staff member may remove a visitor's mask if the visitor is unable.

**2. FACE COVERING TYPES (Vendors and Visitors):** All visitors and vendors must supply and wear their own face coverings while at or inside a school district campus/facility or inside a school district vehicle. All visitors and vendors must properly maintain their face covering. The following face covering types are approved for compliance with this policy by persons other than school district employees:

**a. Commercially Produced Surgical Masks:**

**b. Cloth Face Masks:** That have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric. The U.S. Center for Disease Control has issued instructions on how to make a cloth face covering at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to->

**3. FACE COVERINGS NOT IN COMPLIANCE: (Vendors and Visitors):** Visitors or vendors who wear one of the following type of face coverings **will not** be in compliance with this policy:

- a. Face masks that are made of fabric that makes it hard to breathe, for example vinyl; or,
- b. Face masks that have inhale/exhalation values or vents; or,
- c. Gaiters.

**4. LIMITED FACE SHIELD USE:** Face shields are less effective than commercial and cloth face coverings and may not be used by any persons to comply with this policy except under the following limited circumstances:

- a. **In Addition to a Face Covering:** When used in addition to an approved face covering to protect eyes, as well; or,

**B. LIMITATIONS/ENFORCEMENT:**

- 1. **NO VISITOR OR VENDOR:** shall wear a face covering that has markings that are suggestive, revealing, indecent<sup>1</sup>, associated with gangs or cults, encourages the use of drugs, alcohol, or violence, or support discrimination on the basis of age, color, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, gender expression, linguistic differences, marital status, national origin, race, religion, socioeconomic background, sexual orientation, physical appearance, or any other basis while on a school campus district building or a school/district sponsored activity.
- 2. **VISITORS:** Members of the public and visitors will be reminded that face coverings are required while at or inside a District school/facility. A visitor will not be admitted inside a District school/facility without wearing a face covering. If a visitor blatantly disregards the health and safety of others and/or refuses to wear a face covering, they will be asked to leave the school facility.

---

<sup>1</sup> Indecent, suggestive, and revealing refer to exposure of private body parts and/or pictures or words with a sexual connotation.

SPECIFIC AUTHORITY: Section 1001.41(1), (2) and (3), Florida Statutes.

LAW IMPLEMENTED: Sections 1001.42(4) and (8), 1003.31, 1012.23 and 1012.27(1) and (7), Florida Statutes.

Policy Adopted as Emergency Policy: August 19, 2020

Policy Adopted: December 15, 2020

Policy Revised as Emergency Policy: August 17, 2021

Policy Adopted: December 14, 2021

Policy Revised as Emergency Policy: December 31, 2021