



2020 Face Covering (Masks) Policy and Practice

Note: **As new and better ideas for classroom safety emerge, The Highlands School remains flexible.**

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) offers considerable direction for using face coverings as we together mitigate the spread of the coronavirus. The CDC writes: "Cloth face coverings are recommended as a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the cloth face covering coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. This is called source control. . . . [T]he uses of cloth face coverings is particularly important in settings where people are close to each other or where social distancing is difficult to maintain."

The Highlands School will follow the following face covering practices for all who are in our school.

Face Coverings Type and Material

- Face Coverings must be made of cotton and doubled layered, preferably with an added filter.
- Face Coverings may be any color, a mixture of colors, and have a pattern or print. NO IMAGES, SPORTS TEAMS, OR CARTOON CHARACTERS PERMITTED. THS logo is permitted.
- Face Coverings must be properly worn, which is over the top of the bridge of nose and down under the chin.
- Face Coverings are always mandatory in the restroom; flushing toilets cause upward spread of the virus.
- Yes, Gaiters will be permitted if they are made of cotton; no soft silky polyester masks allowed.
- No Vented Masks. Vented masks are used for different environments than classrooms; there is no protection for the person on the other side of a vented mask.
- No Bandanas or cloths tied behind the head permitted.

When are Face Coverings REQUIRED?

- Arriving at School: All teachers and students, Kindergarten through 12th grade, must be wearing a face covering when arriving at school each morning. Face coverings remain on until all students are seated, physically distanced, and class begins.
- Walking About: Face coverings remain on whenever students walk away from their desks, leave the classroom to use the restroom, move to another class, dismiss for the day, or generally move about the campus.

When are Face Coverings REQUIRED? Continued

- After School: Students who are not distancing after school must leave their masks on until they are picked up by their parents or get into vehicles to leave campus.

When Can Face Coverings Be REMOVED? (Use of a Face Shield Optional During These Times)

- PreK students are not required to wear a face covering to enter the building at their own entrance or to be in the classroom unless the parent requests. PreK students do not leave their area and will not need to wear a mask/face shield in the classroom.
- Students will be permitted to remove their masks once learning begins if the students can maintain physical distancing of 6 feet from both the teacher and other classmates.
- Students may wear a face shield (optional) while their mask is off during instruction and at the parents' request at their desk where students maintain physical distancing.
- Teachers will teach by distancing at the front of the room using a shield. Whenever a teacher helps a child at the desk, the teacher must wear a face covering.
- Students may remove face coverings for recess, lunch, or PE and store the face covering for cleanliness in a brown paper bag, zip lock bag, or the like (which they carry with them and label with their name). Students must put their face covering back on before entering the building.