



**WAYNE LOCAL**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
WAYNESVILLE, OH

## USE OF FACE COVERINGS POLICY

AMENDED 8/18/2020

**July 29, 2020**

The Board of Education of Wayne Local Schools is committed to providing students, staff, and visitors with a safe and healthy environment.

In order to maintain a healthy environment, the Board will follow the mandates and requirements set forth by the federal government, Center for Disease Control, Ohio Governor, Ohio State Health Department, Warren County Health Department, Ohio Department of Education, and other entities (“Directing Entities”) as it relates to the protecting the health of students. If any of these Directing Entities or District Administration requires staff, students, and/or visitors to wear cloth face coverings while attending school, reporting to work at a school, or visiting a school, the District’s Administration will follow and enforce such directives.

Pursuant to *COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools* issued by the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Education, and the Warren County Public Schools Common Reopening Agreements all staff members, volunteers and visitors must wear ~~face coverings~~ face masks.

Students shall wear appropriate face ~~coverings~~ masks with scheduled breaks as specified in the District’s Adopted Reopening Plan. Although the District and each school building has safety protocols in place, students who attend school will incur a level of risk. In addition to face ~~coverings~~ masks, Wayne Local Schools will utilize social distancing, hygiene, cleaning and safety procedures in each building in an attempt to decrease the likelihood of infection, but a certain level of inherent risk of being in a public place cannot be eliminated.

### ~~Face coverings:~~

- ~~• Fully cover the mouth, nose, and chin; minimizing gaps;~~
- ~~• Not create difficulty breathing while worn; and~~
- ~~• Held secure through either a tie, elastic, strap, etc. to prevent slipping.~~

On August 13, 2020, the Interim Director of the Ohio Department of Health (the “Director”) issued an order requiring use of facial coverings in K-12 schools (“Order”). The Order which became effective on Friday, August 14, 2020, wields control over any conflicting provisions of the Director’s July 23 statewide mask order and will remain effective until the Governor-declared state of emergency no longer exists or the Director rescinds or modifies the Order. The Order requires that, with limited exception, all students, faculty, and staff in any child care setting, school building, or other location that provides care of education to any child in kindergarten through

twelfth grade wear facial coverings. A facial covering is defined as any material that covers an individual's nose, mouth and chin. Facial coverings must be worn at all times when:

1. In any indoor location, including but not limited to, classrooms, gymnasiums, offices, locker rooms, hallways, cafeterias, and/or locker bays;
2. Outdoors on school property and unable to consistently maintain a distance of at least six feet from individuals who are not members of their household;
3. Waiting for ~~a school bus~~ school transportation outdoors and unable to maintain a distance of at least six feet from individuals who are not members of their household; or
4. Riding ~~a school bus~~ school transportation.

The Director's Order also sets forth very limited exceptions for circumstances in which the requirement to wear a facial covering does not apply, including when:

1. The individual has a medical condition, including respiratory conditions that restrict breathing, mental health conditions, or a disability that contraindicates the wearing of a facial covering;
2. The individual is communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired or has another disability, where an accommodation is appropriate or necessary;

*Note: In these exceptions, the District administration may also discuss other possible accommodations for the student or staff member. Such discussion shall follow District policies and procedures under Section 504 and the ADA.*

3. The individual actively is participating in outdoor recess and/or physical activity where students are able to maintain a social distance of at least six feet or athletic practice, scrimmage, or competition that is permitted under a separate Department of Health Order;
4. The individual is seated and actively consuming food or beverage;
5. Where students and staff can maintain distancing of at least six feet and removal of the facial covering is necessary for instructional purposes, instruction in foreign language, English language for non-native speakers, and other subjects where wearing a facial covering would prohibit participation in normal classroom activities, such as playing an instrument;
6. Students are able to maintain a distance of at least six feet, and a mask break is deemed necessary by the educator supervising the educational setting;
7. The individual is alone in an enclosed space, such as an office; or
8. When an established sincerely-held religious requirement exists that does not permit a facial covering.

*The Interim Director of the Ohio Department of Health on August 13, 2020 (the "Order"), also provides that school-wide use of face shields instead of masks is not appropriate and does not meet the requirements of the Order. Instead, ODH states that a face shield is only appropriate in circumstances where an allowable exception to the Order applies. ODH's guidance acknowledges that certain circumstances may require an alternative to a mask, and that in those instances, if a face shield is used, it should be worn against the forehead with no gap, wrap around the sides of the face, and extend below the chin. Further, ODH notes that when a face shield is being used as an alternative to a face mask, social distancing of at least six feet should be maintained, as well as other preventive measures, such as frequent hand washing or use of hand sanitizer and increased cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.*

*Documentation of the use of a face shield as an exception to the general facial coverings mandate should be maintained*

Everyone is responsible for their own ~~face covering and all face coverings~~ face mask and all masks shall be in accordance with the applicable Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code, Staff Code of Conduct, and with policies of the Board. Face coverings shall not be masks designed to be worn for costume purposes, etc. All ~~face coverings~~ masks shall meet the requirements of appropriate dress as determined by Directing Entities or District Administration.

**~~Exceptions to this face coverings policy may be made for the following:~~**

- ~~• Modified use for students in PK-2nd grade as recommended by the Governor;~~
- ~~• Anyone who has trouble breathing;~~
- ~~• Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance;~~
- ~~• Facial coverings are in violation of documented industry standards;~~
- ~~• Facial coverings will significantly interfere with the learning process;~~
- ~~• Facial coverings are in violation of documented safety policies or documented industry standards;~~
- ~~• Individuals who have received approval from District administration after discussing their request not to wear a face covering due to a physical, mental or developmental health condition, if wearing a face covering would lead to a medical emergency or would introduce significant safety concerns.~~
  - ~~• In this exception, the District administration may also discuss other possible accommodations for the student or staff member. Such discussion shall follow District policies and procedures under Section 504 and the ADA.~~

Wayne Local School District is required to provide written justification to the local health officials upon request explaining why a staff member is not required to wear a ~~facial covering~~ mask in the school. Therefore, if any of the above exceptions are made, the request for such exception must be submitted in writing to the individual's supervisor, and a decision on the request will be provided in writing. ~~An individual may be required to wear a face shield or other face covering as appropriate for an accommodation of this face covering requirement.~~

Any school nurse or staff who care for individuals with COVID-19 symptoms must use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) in accordance with OSHA standards.

~~If face coverings~~ Masks are required, and if no exception has been applied, students and/or staff who violate this policy shall be subject to progressive disciplinary action in accordance with the applicable Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code, Staff Code of Conduct, and in accordance with policies of the Board.

**ADOPTED this 29th day of July, 2020.**

3419-20

**CERTIFICATE**

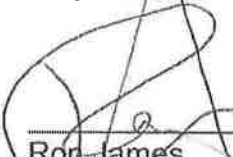
The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted at a meeting held on the 29th day of July 2020, together with a true and correct extract from the minutes of said meeting to the extent pertinent to consideration and adoption of said Resolution.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Conner  
Wayne Local Board of Education, President



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Patrick Dubbs  
Wayne Local Schools, Superintendent



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Ron James  
Wayne Local Schools, Treasurer