

## **Buckeye Elementary School District Face Covering Protocol - Students/Families**

Student wearing of face coverings is highly recommended for all individuals during the 2021-22 school year.

**Purpose:** This information is meant to provide clarity and establish a common understanding as face coverings will be required by students during in-person instruction and activities while on school campuses. The goal is to educate students and families on the purpose of face coverings as needed.

### **Do students have to wear a face covering?**

- Face coverings are not required, but are highly recommended.

### **Why wear a face covering?**

- Face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms.
- Wearing of face coverings is one possible way to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- We **ALL** play a part in supporting the health and well-being of our students, schools and the greater Buckeye community.
- Face coverings are most essential when physical distancing is not possible.
- According to the CDC, cloth face coverings are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by people in public settings.

### **When and where can face coverings be worn by students?**

- Face coverings may be worn in all facilities during interactions with students and staff.
- Face coverings may be worn when in areas open to the general public.
- Face coverings may be worn in all areas in which interactions with others are likely (hallways, restrooms, common areas).

### **What is considered a face covering?**

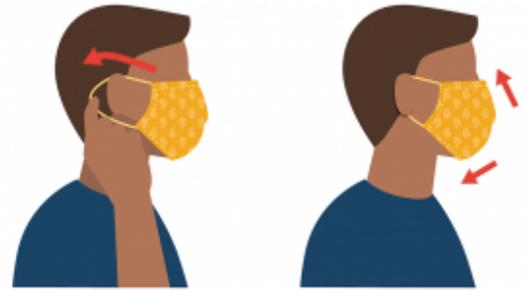
- “Face Covering” means a covering that fully covers a person’s nose and mouth. The term “Face Covering” includes, but is not limited to, cloth face masks, surgical masks, towels, scarves, and handkerchiefs.
- Face coverings are not surgical masks or medical personal protective equipment.

### **How does a student get a face covering if they don’t have one?**

- BESD will provide students with a face covering upon request.
- Disposable masks will be available at each school in the event that a student forgets or misplaces their face covering.
- Students/families are strongly encouraged to bring their own face coverings to school.

### How do I wear a face covering correctly?

- Wash your hands before putting on your face covering
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily



### How do I clean/take care of my face covering?

- Cloth face coverings should be washed routinely depending on frequency of use.
- You can include your face covering with your regular laundry.
- [Click here](#) to access CDC Guidelines for “How to wash a cloth face covering”

### Recommendations to support students, staff and families when wearing face coverings:

#### General:

- Establish clear/consistent routines and expectations with face coverings in the school setting/classroom.
- Regular communication of routines and procedures to families through school and classroom newsletters, virtual meetings, in-person (if permitted), email blasts and other methods of communication.
- Provide safe opportunities for students to remove a face covering for short periods of time.
- All staff emphasize and message that we ALL play a part in supporting the health and well-being of both the school and larger Buckeye community.
- Message that wearing of face coverings is one possible way to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Work directly with families to support students who struggle with face coverings.
- Due process will be followed in investigating alleged violations for students.
- If students cannot wear face coverings due to health reasons, the principal, classroom teacher and other pertinent support staff should work closely with the parents in order to identify a solution.
- Acknowledge their frustrations - Students may be frustrated by how coronavirus has impacted their lives. It can be helpful to acknowledge this and normalize their feelings, especially when they may feel like this is another negative way that COVID-19 is affecting their normal way of life.

#### K-3:

- Show pictures of students' favorite characters from books or cartoons wearing face coverings.
- Allow students to decorate or personalize their mask to develop a sense of ownership.
- Students can draw a picture of their favorite book character wearing a mask.
- Ask parents/families to practice wearing face coverings at home with their children.

- Show students pictures of other children wearing face coverings.
- Speak positively about wearing face coverings.
- Explain, in simplest terms, why it is important to wear a mask. [Click here](#) to view a basic video on tips for face coverings.
- Find a safe place for a struggling student to take breaks from wearing the mask.
- Model desired behavior.

**4-8:**

- Use the science of germs to engage students in understanding how face coverings can mitigate spread.
- Discuss with students about the need for face coverings.
- Find a safe place for a struggling student to take breaks from wearing the mask.
- Model desired behavior.
- Let students know that even when their mouth is covered, their eyes still show, and people will be able to recognize them.
- Explain that wearing a mask is an act of kindness. Just like we have taught you to sneeze into your elbow, we're asking you to wear a mask to prevent germs from spreading. It's telling others that you care about them and you're trying your best to keep your germs to yourself.

For more information please access the [CDC Information on Face Covering](#)