

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON USE OF FACE COVERINGS**

### **Will face coverings be required in SCPS?**

Yes. Face coverings will be required when schools reopen and while on all Seminole County Public School property. This is a fluid process and the District will continue to monitor COVID-19 within our community for changes when necessary.

### **Why are face coverings required?**

Face coverings are being required based upon best available data and input from local health authorities, the School Board, CDC guidelines, and stakeholder groups, including teachers and parents. According to the CDC, face coverings have been shown to be an effective tool in stopping the spread of COVID-19, along with social distancing, frequent hand washing, and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.

### **What constitutes a face covering that complies with SCPS policy?**

A face covering means a uniform piece of material that fits snugly against the side of the face and securely and completely covers a person's nose and mouth and remains affixed in place without the use of one's hands, whether store bought or homemade, consistent with Seminole County Health Department and CDC guidelines.

### **Do face shields constitute face coverings that comply with SCPS policy?**

A face shield is primarily used for eye protection for the person wearing it. At this time, it is not known what level of protection a face shield provides to people nearby from the spray of respiratory droplets from the wearer. There is currently not enough evidence to support the effectiveness of face shields and the CDC does not currently recommend use of face shields **as a substitute for face coverings**. Face shields are permitted when they are worn in conjunction with a face covering.

Face shields without a face covering may be permissible if it is determined to be part of an accommodation under the Exceptions provision of the SCPS Policy.

### **Are there any types of face coverings that are prohibited?**

- Open-chin triangle bandanas and face coverings containing valves, mesh material, lace, slashes, or holes are not permissible.
- Face coverings that are worn in a manner that obstruct the wearer's vision or conceals the wearer's entire face such as ski masks, gas masks, Halloween masks, costume masks, ninja masks, pantyhose, or full face masks are prohibited.
- Any face covering that does not meet the dress code requirements of appropriateness is prohibited.

**Who will be required to wear face coverings?**

All students, staff, visitors, contractors and vendors will be required to wear face coverings unless an approved exception applies or social distancing can be maintained.

**Will employees and students have to wear face coverings all day?**

All employees and all students are required to wear a face covering when they are not able to maintain a minimum of six feet of separation from others. Students and employees may remove face coverings when socially distanced during high intensity outdoor activities and may also remove their face coverings while seated for dining.

**Will there be exceptions?**

Yes. The following approved exceptions apply: Persons under the age of (2); Persons eating or drinking; Persons for whom a face covering would cause an impairment due to an existing health condition or disability and a determination is made that an accommodation is not reasonably available; Persons communicating with hearing impaired individuals who need to see the other person’s mouth to communicate and a reasonable accommodation is not available; Public safety personnel whose personal protective equipment requirements are governed by their respective agencies; and any person for whom removal of the face covering is necessary to receive health care or if a person is experiencing acute trouble breathing, is unconscious or incapacitated and is personally unable to remove the face covering without assistance.

**Will my child be required to wear a face covering when participating in athletics?**

Students will be required to follow guidance issued by the Florida High School Athletic Association.

**Will my child be required to wear a face covering when participating in extracurricular activities?**

The expectation is that students will wear a face coverings during extracurricular activities. However, students participating in extracurricular activities where the wearing of face coverings is not practicable or may create a health risk **may not** be required to wear face coverings during the activity but must still follow any and all safety procedures in place for the activity, as established by the Superintendent. If you have a question regarding a specific extracurricular activity, please contact your Principal.

**Must students and staff bring their own face coverings?**

Yes. Face coverings must comply with the dress code found in the Code of Student Conduct so that they do not disrupt school activities and are not obscene or otherwise inflammatory. The District has a supply of disposable face coverings that will be offered to students and staff, if needed.

**What happens if a child forgets, loses, or damages their face covering?**

If a student forgets, loses or damages their face covering, the District will provide a disposable face covering for that day.

**What happens when a student refuses a wear a face covering?**

Face coverings will be required for all students unless an approved exception applies. Every attempt will be made to ensure that the student and the student’s parents understand the importance of wearing a face covering. The District will work with families to identify the more appropriate learning path if face coverings will not be worn.

**What happens when a visitor or vendor refuses to wear a face covering?**

Face covering will be required to be worn by visitors and vendors unless an approved exception applies. All visitors should be reminded that face coverings are required while at or inside a District school/facility. Visitors and vendors who refuse to wear a face covering in compliance with this Emergency Policy may be removed from District property and subject to other available contractual and legal remedies.

**Will face coverings be required on buses?**

Yes, it will be the student’s responsibility to wear a face covering while on district transportation. Disposable face coverings will be available for students who forget their face coverings.

**Will SROs be enforcing the face covering requirement?**

No, the administration at each school will work with students and staff to encourage and ensure compliance.

**How will the face covering requirement apply to students with special needs?**

Face coverings will be required for all students unless an approved exception applies. Appropriate accommodations will be made based on the individualized needs of the students.