

READY SCHOOLS, SAFE LEARNERS

GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2020–21

Face Coverings / Shields

Do all staff and students have to wear face coverings or face shields?

The information below outlines requirements and recommendations for staff and students.

Required

Face coverings or face shields for:

- Staff who are regularly within 6 feet of students and/or staff.
 - This can include staff who support personal care, feeding, or instruction requiring direct physical contact.
 - Staff who will sustain close contact and interactions with students.
- Bus drivers.
- Staff preparing and/or serving meals.

Face shields or clear plastic barriers for:

- Speech Language Pathologists, Speech Language Pathology Assistants, or other adults providing articulation therapy.
- Front office staff.

Face masks¹ for school RNs or other medical personnel when providing direct contact care and monitoring of staff/students displaying symptoms. School nurses should also wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for their role.

Students who choose not to wear face coverings must be provided access to instruction.

¹ Face masks refer to medical grade face masks in this document. RNs and other medical providers should refer to OHA for updated information.

ADA accommodations: If a staff member requires an accommodation for the face covering or face shield requirements, districts and schools should work to limit the staff member's proximity to students and staff to the extent possible to minimize the possibility of exposure.

Recommended

Face coverings for:

- All staff (in accordance with local public health authority and [CDC](#) guidelines).
- Staff who interact with the public (e.g., mail deliveries, varied support personnel).
- Staff who interact with multiple stable cohorts.
- Students in 6th-12th grade and especially in circumstances when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

If face coverings are worn, they should be washed daily or a new covering worn daily.

- Encourage students who wear face coverings to follow recommendations for the [CDC Face Coverings](#).
- Children of any age should not wear a face covering:
 - If they have a medical condition that makes it difficult for them to breathe with a face covering;
 - If they experience a disability that prevents them from wearing a face covering;
 - If they are unable to remove or manage the face covering independently; or
 - While sleeping.

Physical Distancing

What are the required protocols for physical distancing?

Daily activities and instruction should support physical distancing, striving to maintain at least six feet between individuals.

All schools must establish a minimum of 35 square feet per person when determining room capacity. The following guidelines are required with additional recommendations outlined in the [Ready Schools, Safe Learners guidance](#).

- Establish a minimum of 35 square feet per person when determining room capacity. Calculate only with usable classroom space and understanding that desks and room set-up will require use of all space in the calculation.
- Support physical distancing in all daily activities and instruction, striving to maintain at least six feet between individuals.

- Minimize time standing in lines and take steps to ensure that six feet of distance between students is maintained, including marking spacing on floor, one-way traffic flow in constrained spaces, etc.
- Schedule modifications to limit the number of students in the building (e.g., rotating groups by days or location, staggered schedules to avoid hallway crowding and gathering).
- Plan for students who will need additional support in learning how to maintain physical distancing requirements. Provide instruction, don't employ punitive discipline.