

GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF FACE MASKS



COBB COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

ONE TEAM. ONE GOAL.
STUDENT SUCCESS.

As part of the Cobb County School District's phased in return to face-to-face instruction, the District requires employees, students, and visitors at all school buildings to wear masks or cloth face coverings. Masks and other face coverings are a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air when talking, coughing, or sneezing.

General Guidance:

All face masks or face coverings should:

- Fully cover the nose and mouth and secure under the chin.
- Fit securely against both sides of the face.
- The Center for Disease Control (CDC) does not recommend using masks if they have an exhalation valve or vent.

If a student is not wearing a mask or face covering:

- The student will be asked to adhere to current mask guidelines.
- A disposable mask will be provided for the student.
- If a student continues to refuse to wear a mask, the parent will be called to pick up their student and a conference will be held to discuss the option of digital instruction.
- A student who continues to refuse to wear a mask will be considered insubordinate and subject to the Student Code of Conduct.

Surgical and other medical masks may be recommended for specific situations such as:

1. Students/staff who become ill at school.
2. Staff who are screening or caring for a student who is ill.
3. Staff working with students who require health care procedures or have behaviors that may put staff at increased risk.

Exceptions:

Medical Conditions:

While some accommodations may be made for individuals with certain medical conditions, masks or face coverings need to be worn at all times when social distancing is not possible (on the bus, in hallways, common areas, eating or drinking, etc.).

Students with Disabilities:

We understand that some of our students with disabilities are unable to wear a mask for extended periods, and accommodations may be made for these students.

Additional Information:

Some students may not be accustomed to wearing a mask or find them uncomfortable. Students should begin wearing a mask for short periods prior to returning face to face so that they become accustomed to wearing a mask.

- Model and practice how to properly put on and remove the mask.
- Explain the importance of wearing a mask. For young students, explain it in simple, concrete terms such as "masks prevent germs" or "masks help keep everyone healthy". This will help children understand the reason for wearing a mask.
- The use of face shields is not a substitute for a mask or face covering.
- The use of a mask or face covering is not a substitute for social distancing (maintaining 6 feet from others).

Proper use of a face covering or mask is important. Please read more [here](#) through guidance provided by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).