



## **FCPS Face Covering Guidance in School Buildings**

Governor Hogan's Executive Order 20-08-03-01 and the subsequent guidance from the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), requires the use of cloth face coverings in schools when not contraindicated due to a:

- medical condition
- disability
- developmental immaturity
- or other health or safety concerns as indicated by the CDC.

Wearing face coverings in the school building both models and reinforces the importance of face coverings to students. The following information is intended to provide clarity about the FCPS requirements for wearing face coverings in school buildings.

- Barring the exceptions identified below, staff and students are required to wear face coverings while in the school building, which includes at all times when moving within a school building, including hallways, common spaces, and office areas and when entering and exiting the building.
- Visitors are required to wear a face covering at all times when in a school building and when entering and exiting the building.
- Students are required to wear a face covering on the bus. Drivers and assistants are required to wear face coverings at all times when students are on the bus.
- Staff and students are authorized to use their own face coverings, but FCPS will provide them if students or staff do not want to bring their own.
- Face shields alone are not a substitution for a face covering and must only be used in limited situations. FCPS will provide face shields for staff who must work in close proximity to students and where viewing the face is beneficial (e.g. language instruction, working with students with special education needs, etc.). Staff may choose to wear a personally provided face shield in addition to a face covering, if they desire.
- Students may remove face coverings while eating lunch, snacks, or drinking when there is proper social distancing.
- Staff and students may remove face coverings during outside activities on school grounds, if social distancing (6 ft.) can be maintained.

Staff are only exempt from wearing a face covering if they meet one of the exemption criteria outlined in Governor Hogan's executive order and should contact Human Resources Benefits for guidance. In addition to the exemption criteria outlined in the executive order, staff are authorized not to wear a face covering in a school building only in the following situations:

- In a staff lounge when properly socially distanced and seated to eat or drink; or
- Alone in a classroom with no students present; or
- Alone in an office or at a desk when no other individuals are present; or
- Working alone or socially distanced in mechanical spaces, or where a face covering presents safety concerns.