



Book	Policy Manual
Section	Copy of 8450.01
Title	New PROTECTIVE FACIAL COVERINGS DURING PANDEMIC/EPIDEMIC EVENTS
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8450.01 - PROTECTIVE FACIAL COVERINGS DURING PANDEMIC/EPIDEMIC EVENTS

The Wooster City School District is committed to providing students, staff, and visitors with a safe and healthy environment, especially during the COVID-19 Pandemic. In order to maintain a healthy environment, the Board of Education will follow the mandates and requirements set forth by the Centers for Disease [Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), Ohio Governor, Ohio State Health Department, Wayne County Health Department, Ohio Department of Education, and other entities (“Directing Entities”) as it relates to protecting the health of students, employees, and visitors. If any of these Directing Entities or District Administration requires staff, students, and/or visitors to wear cloth face coverings/masks while attending school, reporting to work at a school, or visiting a school, the school system will follow and enforce such directives.

As of July 2020, pursuant to COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools issued by the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Education, all staff members must wear face coverings during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

As of August 2020, pursuant to COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance from the Superintendent, all students in grades 1-12 and visitors will be required to wear a face covering.

Cloth Face coverings/masks should:

- Fully cover the mouth, nose, and chin;
- Fit snugly against the side of the face so there are no gaps;
- Not create difficulty breathing while worn; and
- Held secure through either a tie, elastic, etc. to prevent slipping.

Face coverings/masks shall not include surgical masks or respirators (as those should be reserved for healthcare workers), masks designed to be worn for costume purposes, etc. All face coverings/masks shall meet the requirements of the appropriate dress code policies and/or codes of conduct.

Exceptions to this face coverings policy may be made for the following:

- Anyone who has trouble breathing;
- Anyone who is unable to remove the cloth face-covering without assistance;
- Facial coverings are in violation of documented industry standards;
- Facial coverings will significantly interfere with the learning process;
- Facial coverings are in violation of documented safety policies or documented industry standards;
- Individuals who have received approval from administration after discussing their request not to wear a face-covering/mask due to a physical, mental, or developmental health condition, if wearing a mask would lead to a medical emergency or would introduce significant safety concerns. A physician’s report is required to accompany such a request.
 - In this exception, the administration may also discuss other possible accommodations for the student or staff member. Such discussion shall follow District policies and procedures under Section 504 and the ADA.

For any individual who meets one of the exceptions listed above they will be required to wear a face shield as an acceptable alternative.

Wooster City School District is required to have on file written justification explaining why a staff member is not required to wear a facial covering in the school. Therefore, if any of the above exceptions are made, the request for such exception must be submitted in writing to Human Resources, and a decision on the request will be provided in writing. An individual may be required to wear a face shield or other face-covering as appropriate for the accommodation of this face-covering requirement.

Any school nurse or staff who care for individuals with COVID-19 symptoms must use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) in accordance with OSHA standards.

If face masks/coverings are required, and no exception has been applied, students, employees, and/or visitors who violate this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the applicable Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code, staff Code of Conduct, and in accordance with policies of the Board, or escorted from school district property.

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