

USE OF FACE COVERINGS

The Board of Education is committed to providing students, staff, and visitors with a safe and healthy environment.

In order to maintain a healthy environment, the Board will follow the mandates and requirements set forth by the federal government, Ohio Governor, Ohio State Health Department, Warren County Health Department, and other entities (“Directing Entities”) as it relates to protecting the health of students. If any of these Directing Entities or District Administration requires staff, students, and/or visitors to wear face coverings while attending school, reporting to work at a school, or visiting a school, the District’s Administration 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 when not alone in their classroom, office, or bus. Additionally, staff members working outdoors alone are not required to wear a face covering.

In addition, all students riding a school bus must be wearing a face covering when boarding the bus, riding the bus, and departing the bus. Face coverings must be worn by all students and visitors when entering a school building and remain on while in the building. Students will be provided opportunities by their teachers to remove face coverings, such as when outside for learning activities, recess, and lunch.

Face coverings should:

- Fully cover the mouth, nose, and chin;
- Not create difficulty breathing while worn; and
- Hold secure through either a tie, elastic, etc. to prevent slipping.

Face coverings shall not include masks designed to be worn for costume purposes, etc. All face coverings 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:

- Children younger than 2 years old;
- Anyone who has trouble breathing;
- Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance;
- Facial coverings will significantly interfere with the learning process;

- Individuals who have received approval from District administration after discussing their request not to wear a face covering 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.
 - In this exception, the District 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.

The Lebanon City School District is required to provide written justification to the local health officials upon request 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 the individual's supervisor, and a decision on the request will be provided in writing. An individual may be required to wear another face covering as appropriate for an 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.

When facial coverings are required, and no exception has been applied, students and/or staff who continue to 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.