



POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE

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Hilliard City School District
Operations Department

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Jamie Lennox, Special Education Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION

First Reading
July 8, 2021

The Policy Review Committee meets quarterly each school year. All proposed new policies, revisions of current policies or repeal of a current policy are reviewed by the Policy Review Committee before being presented to the Superintendent for submission to the Board of Education. Two readings at two separate meetings shall normally be required before a new or revised policy may be adopted. Action to adopt will take place at a subsequent third meeting. However, the Board does have the option of voting for adoption at the second meeting.

The Policy Review Committee recommends the policies listed below be revised, as noted on the following pages:

1. EBEA – Use of Face Coverings

Revision Notes:

- Language with a ~~line drawn through it~~ is language to be removed.
- Language underlined is language to be added.

The policies are being submitted for readings and adoption at the following Board of Education meetings:

- First reading – July 8, 2021
 - Second reading and adoption – August 9, 2021
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|---------|-------------------------------|
| Book | Policy Manual |
| Section | Section E: Support Services |
| Title | Copy of Use of Face Coverings |
| Code | EBEA |
| Status | |
| Adopted | August 10, 2020 |

Use of Face Coverings

The Board adopts this policy ~~requiring recommending the use of~~ face coverings ~~for unvaccinated individuals in order to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19. The Board must~~ comply with ~~all local, state and federal health~~ requirements. ~~and recommendations to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19.~~ The current consensus among public health experts is that face coverings are a preventative measure that can reduce the spread of COVID-19, when used along with other preventative measures, including social distancing, frequent handwashing, and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.

Staff and Volunteers

~~The Board recommends all unvaccinated~~ school employees and volunteers (including contractors) ~~shall~~ wear a face covering while working or present in any school building, facility or other area of a school campus, or while operating or present in any school owned vehicle with more than one person in the vehicle (including, but not limited to, buses and vans).

Exceptions include when:

- ~~1. Facial coverings in the school setting are prohibited by law or regulation;~~
- ~~2. Facial coverings are in violation of documented industry standards;~~
- ~~3. Facial coverings are not advisable for health reasons;~~
- ~~4. Facial coverings are in violation of the school's documented safety policies;~~
- ~~5. Facial coverings are not required when the staff works alone in an assigned work area;~~
- ~~6. There is a functional (practical) reason for a staff member or volunteer to not to wear a facial covering in the workplace;~~

~~Schools must provide written justification to local health officials, upon request, explaining why a staff member is not required to wear a face covering. Requests for accommodations must be directed to a building administrator or the human resources department and exemptions must be in writing.~~

School nurses or staff who care for individuals with symptoms ~~must should~~ use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), ~~either~~ provided by the school ~~or brought from home.~~

Students

~~It is recommended that all unvaccinated~~ students ~~in kindergarten through the 6th grade must~~ wear a face covering while attending school or a school function in any school building, facility or other area of a school campus, and when riding in school-provided transportation, ~~unless an exception applies. Students in this grade range will be expected to wear masks while seated in classrooms, but will be afforded mask breaks outside when practical.~~

All students in 7th grade through the 12th grade must wear a face covering while attending school or a school function in any school building, facility or other area of a school campus, and when riding in school provided transportation, unless an exception applies. This policy applies to students waiting outside school buildings before and after school, and to students waiting at bus stops. Students shall wear face coverings at all times except for the following:

1. Students may be exempted from this policy due to documented medical, developmental, behavioral or individualized needs. Requests for exemptions should be in writing and directed to the school nurse. Should an approved exemption to a traditional cloth facial covering apply, face shields shall be worn as an alternative, unless the use of a face shield is included in the original or subsequent exemptions.
2. Students may remove face coverings when appropriate social distancing measures are in place as determined by a teacher, coach or school administrator.
3. Students participating in athletics shall be subject to the current Ohio Department of Health orders regarding use of face coverings.

Students required to wear a face covering who refuse to follow this policy may be required to leave the school campus and are subject to appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the student code of conduct.

School Visitors

It is recommended that all unvaccinated school visitors must wear a face covering in any school building or facility, including while waiting outside school buildings before and after school. Face coverings are not required for:

1. Children younger than 2 years old;
2. Anyone with a documented medical condition that prevents them from wearing a face covering;
3. Anyone who has trouble breathing;
4. Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.

General Rules for Face Coverings

1. Staff and students are required to have a face covering with them at all times. Students should wear their own face covering or one will be provided for them. Staff will be provided with a face shield and cloth face covering. Staff may wear their own face covering.
2. Individuals may remove their face covering when eating or drinking.
3. Face coverings should be cloth/fabric and cannot be made of mesh or cloth/fabric that is transparent (with the exception of plastic components of a cloth/fabric face covering that allow for viewing a person's mouth and face shields). Face coverings must cover an individual's nose, mouth, and chin.
4. Face coverings are not required outside when individuals are able to maintain a social distance of six feet or more from individuals who are not members of their household.
5. Individuals should wash their hands before putting on a face covering. The face covering should fit snugly against the side of an individual's face. Face coverings should not create any difficulty breathing while worn and should be secured by a tie or elastic to prevent movement.
6. All face coverings must be appropriate for the school setting and comply with applicable dress codes. Face coverings that contain offensive words or images or that may substantially disrupt the educational process are prohibited. Face coverings that are part of costumes or cover the entire face are not appropriate, with the exception of face shields. Face coverings for staff shall be professional and appropriate for the school setting and comply with any applicable dress code. Face coverings for students shall comply with Board Policy JFCA — Student Dress Code.
7. Face shields that wrap around the face and extend below the chin shall be considered as an alternative where cloth face coverings would hinder the learning process.

Training

The District will provide training to staff and students on this policy and the use and care of face coverings along with other preventative measures, including social distancing, frequent handwashing, and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.

Duration of Policy

This policy is adopted on an interim and temporary basis consistent with current legal requirements and recommendations. In the event legal requirements and/or recommendations change, the Superintendent is authorized to align the requirements in this policy to those changes, pending further Board action.

CROSS REFS.: Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools (July 7, 2020)
Centers for Disease Control Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19 (June 28, 2020)

Legal

ORC 3313.20(A)

CONTRACT REF.: Teachers' Negotiated Agreement

CONTRACT REF.: Certified Staff Negotiated Agreement

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