

Fayette County Public Schools Guidance on Masks and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Masks

Requirement and Usage:

- Employees, students K-12, contractors and visitors are required to wear a mask at all times while in the building or on the bus, with the exception of those who have a medical exemption or ARC-determined exemption.
- Students and staff should only lower their masks while actively eating or drinking.
- Gaiters and bandanas do not provide enough protection and are not considered an adequate face covering for FCPS facilities.

Exemptions:

- Medical exemptions must be submitted to the school or department head in writing on the official letterhead of the physician, pediatrician or psychologist's office, and signed by a medical professional.
- If a student with a disability presents a doctor's note referencing the need for a waiver of the face mask requirement, an ARC meeting is not necessary. The school should immediately grant the waiver and begin implementation. Doctor's notes can be written by anyone on the student's medical team who is qualified to make that determination. For example, notes from a physician's assistant or nurse practitioner should be accepted.
- In rare cases, schools and ARCs already may have substantial information about the medical issues of children that may cause mask wearing to be problematic. In these cases, an ARC meeting should occur to discuss the information and determine the appropriateness of a face mask. If a waiver is approved by the ARC, it should be documented in the student's IEP and implemented immediately.
- In cases when students have a medical exemption or ARC-determined exemption, the student's teachers should be notified of the waiver. There may be additional staff in the building who should also be notified about the waiver to prevent staff from asking the student to wear a mask. Schools should consider ways to help students identify themselves as having an approved waiver. An example of how to do this includes giving a student a card he or she can carry and produce to staff members when asked to put on a mask they are not required to wear.
- If a student has a mask exemption, that student should be seated at least 6 feet away from others within the classroom, near the front of the room, offset from the teacher. Students with a mask exemption should be given a desk shield.
- All families should be made aware there could be students in their children's classroom that have a mask exemption.

District Supplies:

- Masks will be provided for students or staff members who do not have one.
- Schools and work sites should have two fabric masks per employee and student. Additional masks should be ordered through the [warehouse PPE ordering system](#).
- Staff members who work with students that have a medical exemption or ARC-determined exemption for wearing a mask will be provided with a protective face shield in addition to their cloth mask.

Preschool:

- It should be shared with families that the most current recommendations from Kentucky's Department for Public Health (DPH) and Kentucky Department of Education do not require preschool students to wear masks throughout the school day, as masks pose a higher risk of strangulation and suffocation for young students and also may increase the risk of improper wearing due to the developmental abilities of preschool students.
- Masks are not required for FCPS preschoolers, but if a family wants their child to wear a mask, they can choose to do that. If a family requests this option, please talk with the caregivers about the risks stated above. Also, families would need to know that any time a mask touches a surface, it would need to be replaced or laundered. (If/When this happens, the dirty mask would be placed in a paper bag to send home and a new mask given to the child. Families would have to provide a paper bag, and extra masks in these instances.)

Band and Orchestra:

- Performance masks and bell covers will be provided by the district and must be utilized in band classes, practices and performances.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)***Guidance***

Employees in the following roles should wear the following Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- Bus drivers and monitors – KN95, double layer cloth or surgical mask, and optional eye protection (safety glasses, face shield, or personal glasses)
- Child nutrition workers – surgical or double layer cloth mask, and food service gloves
- Preschool and Special Education Diapering - KN95, double layer cloth or surgical masks, disposable aprons, eye protection (safety glasses, face shield, or personal glasses), and optional gloves

- Sick Room Supervision – KN95 masks, gowns, gloves and eye protection (safety glasses, face shield, or personal glasses)
- Special Education Classroom – High risk students: KN95 masks, gowns, eye protection (safety glasses, face shield, or personal glasses), and optional gloves
- Special Education Classroom – Low to medium risk students: double layer cloth or surgical mask.
- Temperature Takers – KN95, double layer cloth or surgical mask, and eye protection (safety glasses, face shield, or personal glasses)
- Traditional Classroom – double layer cloth or surgical mask
- Traditional Health Room (medication administration) – surgical or double layer cloth mask, gloves

Supply Monitoring and Ordering

Each school must designate a staff member (principal, associate principal, PGES, bookkeeper, etc.) to oversee PPE supplies in the school, monitor PPE supply levels and order when needed from the [warehouse PPE ordering system](#).

The usage process is referred to as the “burn rate,” and it is the rate at which PPE is used in various settings. The following link to the CDC’s burn rate calculator is a tool that will be helpful to those assigned this task: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/burn-calculator.html>

KN95 masks

- Can be reworn for 7-10 days by the same person without changing.
- Mask should be stored in a clearly labeled paper bag when not in use.
- Masks should not be shared between individuals.

Gloves

- Gloves are available for staff use, however good hand hygiene will be just as effective.
- Wash thoroughly prior to and after procedure for 20 seconds with soap and water.

Specific Guidance for Special Education

Principals should consult the following documents: [PPE Considerations for Staff Providing Educational Support to Students with Special Healthcare Needs](#) and [PPE and Cleaning Supply Needs/Suggestions for Special Education](#)

Please work with special education teachers in your building to identify the specific needs of their students and classrooms and use the [warehouse PPE ordering system](#) to order the appropriate items.