

Perry County Mask and Acceptable Face Covering Policy

The Perry County Board of Education is aware of the evolving need for mitigation measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in a manner that allows schools to open and operate as safely as possible. In consideration of the recommendations issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Alabama Department of Public Health. The Board adopts this policy for all students, staff, visitors, and vendors, of Perry County Schools.

Mask and Acceptable Face Covering Defined

A mask or acceptable face covering under this policy is a device that fully covers the mouth and nose. Examples of acceptable masks and face covering are: (a) Masks that fit properly (snugly around the nose and chin with no large gaps around the sides of the face), (b) Masks and Face Covering with breathable fabric (such as cotton) or medical procedure masks (sometimes referred to as surgical masks or disposable face masks), (c) Masks with two or three layers, (d) Masks with inner filter pockets, (e) Masks made with tightly woven fabric (i.e., fabrics that do not let light pass through when held up to a light source)

STUDENTS

Until further action by the Board, all students in pre-kindergarten through the 12th grade shall be required to wear a mask or acceptable face covering: (a) while attending school or a school function in any school building, facility, or other area of a school campus, including at the time of school entry and exit; (b) on an approved trip at any location and, in the case of athletic events, at any home or away athletic site; and (c) when riding in school-provided transportation. All masks and acceptable face coverings must cover the nose and mouth of the student and may not contain holes, valves, or mesh material. Bandanas, neck gaiters, scarves, and face shields without an underlying mask or acceptable face covering described in this policy are not permitted. The District will provide a mask or face covering to any student on school transportation and in the school building who does not have one. Students shall wear masks and acceptable face coverings at all times, regardless of physical distancing, except for the following:

- Students may remove masks and face coverings for eating or drinking while six (6') feet or other physical distancing measure as approved by the District is maintained;
- Students participating in physical education, active recess, sporting events, and practices do not need to wear a mask or acceptable face covering at which time they are in play; however, masks or acceptable face coverings are required for participants not actively engaged in physical activity, a game, or practice, such as when standing on the sidelines, in a dugout, or off the field of play.
- Students may be exempted from this policy by school principal or the Superintendent/Designee due to a documented medical condition or developmental or other disability of the student; and
- Students may also be exempted from this policy due to special behavioral or individualized needs as determined by the Superintendent/Designee or Director of Special Education.

For students who refuse to or, otherwise, do not wear a mask or acceptable face covering at school, on school transportation, or at a school function under this policy, every attempt will be made to

Perry County Mask and Acceptable Face Covering Policy

ensure that the students and the students' parents understand the importance of wearing a mask or acceptable face covering. The school principal will, then, work with families to identify the more appropriate learning path, including virtual learning, if students fail to comply with the requirement to wear masks and acceptable face coverings as detailed above.

FACULTY AND STAFF

Until further action of the Board, all employees of the Board shall be required to wear a mask or acceptable face covering while working or attending a school function in any school building, facility, or other area of a school campus, and on school transportation. All masks and face coverings must cover the nose and mouth of the employee and may not contain holes, valves, or mesh material. Bandanas, neck gaiters, scarves, and face shields without an underlying mask or acceptable face covering described in this policy are unacceptable. Employees shall wear masks or acceptable face coverings at all times, regardless of physical distancing, except for the following:

- Employees may remove masks and face coverings for eating and drinking while six (6') feet of physical distancing or other physical distancing measure as approved by the District is maintained;
- Employees may be exempted from this policy by the school principal or the Superintendent/Designee due to a documented medical condition or disability of the employee; or
- Employees may remove masks and face coverings on a case-by-case basis for specific instructional needs and other activities, as determined by a teacher or school administrator. In this event, six (6') feet of physical distancing or other physical distancing measure approved by the District must be maintained.

Employees who refuse to wear a mask or acceptable face covering at school, at a school function, or on school transportation under this policy shall be subject to adverse personnel action.

VISITORS AND VENDORS

Until further action of the Board, all visitors and vendors to the District shall be required to wear a mask or acceptable face covering while present in any school building, facility, or other area of a school campus. All masks and face coverings must cover the nose and mouth and may not contain holes, valves, or mesh material. Bandanas, neck gaiters, scarves, and face shields without an underlying mask or acceptable face covering described in this policy are unacceptable.