



District Mask Protocol

updated September 2, 2020

Appropriate and consistent use of face coverings is most important when students, employees, and visitors are transitioning indoors and/or when social distancing of at least 6 feet is difficult to implement or maintain.

Face covering is defined as a mask that covers the mouth and nose (to include non-medical/ medical-grade disposable face masks and cloth face coverings). District employees, students and all visitors are required to wear a face covering when entering and traveling throughout all GCCISD buildings.

Due to exposure, wearing or not wearing a mask near a positive case could determine the need to be quarantined.

Employee Guidelines

Instructional Staff

- Face coverings: Medical or surgical masks provide superior protection to cloth masks and face shields. In educational settings, these masks provide appropriate protection against COVID-19 transmission.
 - To be effective, face coverings should always cover the nose and mouth.
 - If using a disposable mask, students and staff should use a new mask each day.
 - Teachers may remove face coverings when alone in their classrooms.
- Face shields: Clear face shields provide only a partial barrier to respiratory droplets and may be considered and used in place of a mask to protect eyes, nose, and mouth in the following circumstances:
 - while providing instruction to children with hearing loss who depend on lip reading and facial expressions to aid in communication.
 - while providing instruction when the education context may benefit from the ability to see an individual's full face.
 - while providing assessment/testing sessions (SPED, bilingual, 504, etc.).
 - If using a face shield during non-instructional time, a face covering must be used with it.

Non-Instructional Staff

- All district employees must wear a face covering when walking throughout any GCCISD building and when attending gatherings lasting more than 15 minutes. Removal of face coverings (or wearing a face shield alone) is only allowed when employees are alone in their office or assigned workstation & able to social distance.

Student Guidelines

- Pre-K and K: students are encouraged to wear face coverings whenever possible.
- 1st through 12th: students will always be required to wear a face covering when entering all GCCISD buildings, when traveling throughout any and all GCCISD buildings and when in the classroom.
- Failure to wear required face coverings will be addressed under the student handbook.
- Enforcement of masks should be developmentally appropriate, especially in young children and children with disabilities.
- Any child unable to remove a mask themselves in the event of an emergency should NOT wear a mask.
- Exceptions to these requirements will only be considered for a doctor-prescribed medical condition.



- It may be difficult to require a child to wear a mask throughout the entire day. When there are periods of physical distancing of at least 6 feet, mask breaks may be considered. Mask breaks should occur when prompted by the teacher and while students are seated quietly. Ideally, mask breaks will be 15 minutes or less.
- When participating in some non-UIL or other extracurricular activity, it may be impractical for students to wear face coverings. Therefore teachers, staff and visitors will be required to wear face coverings when entering and exiting facilities and practice areas and when not actively engaging in those activities. Schools may, for example, allow students who are actively exercising to remove masks, if they maintain at least six feet of distance from other students, teachers, and staff who are not wearing masks. However, schools must require students, teachers, and staff to wear masks as they arrange themselves in positions that will allow them to maintain safe distancing.