



Protocols for Students COVID Face Coverings

During the 2020-21 school year, the health and safety of students, staff and the community is a top priority as Poudre School District educates children while adapting to the ever-changing COVID-19 pandemic. Cloth face coverings over the nose and mouth are one of the best measures for preventing the transmission of COVID-19. The purpose of a cloth face covering is also to protect others around you in case you have the virus but don't know it.

District and school leaders will continue to work with and follow guidance and orders from public health officials to meet evolving health and safety requirements and to implement district COVID-19 protocols at all schools and sites. Throughout the year, procedures and expectations will be monitored continuously to ensure schools and district buildings are safe environments for everyone. We expect all students, staff and families to follow all health and safety protocols, guidelines and procedures this school year to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Some local and state agencies the District is working with and following guidance from include the:

- Larimer County Department of Health and Environment (LCDHE)
- Colorado Department of Education (CDE)
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)
- Colorado Governor's Office
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Please note that as federal, state, and local officials continue to issue guidance and orders regarding the use of face coverings, this protocol may be subject to change or further clarification. Poudre School District will inform families of changes or clarifications to this protocol.

Students are expected to follow the three W's when in school: Wear a mask, watch your distance, wash your hands. Parents/guardians will be responsible for providing cloth face coverings that follow [Larimer County health guidance](#) and cover your nose and mouth.

If students repeatedly refuse to wear a cloth face covering or otherwise repeatedly fail to comply with this protocol, the willful disobedience or defiance to follow direction from school staff will be considered grounds for student discipline up to and including suspension or expulsion and/or require a transfer to PSD Virtual, PSD's 100 percent online option for the 2020-21 school year.

Cloth Face Coverings

All students are required to wear cloth face coverings when on school grounds.

- Students must wear cloth face coverings at all times in school buildings, when riding the bus, when entering and exiting the school building, and during transitions in the school building. Students will not be permitted to board a PSD bus without a cloth face covering.

Students may remove their cloth face covering in the limited following circumstances:

- During approved outdoor "mask breaks,"
- During recess, following public health guidelines,
- When eating and/or drinking while indoors during designated times (e.g., lunch), so long as they remain in their assigned cohort and follow physical distancing, and

- When eating outdoors and following physical distancing

Student face coverings must comply with [District Policy JICA - Student Dress](#). Students wearing a face covering prohibited by Policy JICA will be notified of the violation, asked to remove the face covering, and be provided with a substitute face covering that meets public health guidance. Habitual or serious violations of Policy JICA may result in more severe disciplinary consequences, including suspension or expulsion, or a transfer to PSD Virtual.

Students are required to bring at least one clean face covering to school each day they are in school. Students are encouraged to keep an additional clean face covering in a plastic/Ziploc bag at school in the event the student's face covering becomes damaged or dirty during the school day. Disposable cloth face coverings will be made available to students who forget to bring one or are unable to provide one. Students who habitually forget to bring a face covering to school may be subject to a parent conference with the school administrator and further disciplinary measures.

Request for medical exemptions to address individual student needs

There may be limited and rare circumstances where students with disabilities or certain medical conditions may not be able to wear a cloth face covering. Parents/guardians should notify their school principal if they believe their student is unable to wear a face covering at school. The school principal will engage in a process with the parent/guardian to consider the request and the student's individual needs. Specific medical documentation would likely be necessary before an exemption could be approved. If a medical exemption is warranted, the principal and/or other appropriate PSD staff will work together with the parent/guardian to provide options or alternatives to the cloth face covering requirement.

- If a student is approved for a medical exemption, they would need to wear a face shield if they are able; a physical barrier will be put in place (plexiglass, plastic or other); and social distancing of 6 feet or more will be implemented. Additionally, if an adult(s) is working in close proximity to the student for support, the adult will wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), which will include a gown, gloves, mask, and eye protection.
- Other potential accommodations or alternatives, depending on the unique circumstance of the request, may include different passing/transition times to maintain distance from other students or attendance at PSD Virtual, PSD's 100 percent online option.

Cloth Face Covering Guidance

Based on [guidance from public health officials](#), the following does not meet the requirements of this protocol because they have limited impact on preventing transmission:

- A face shield alone. If a face shield is worn, it must be coupled with a cloth face covering to meet public health guidance.

Cloth Face Coverings Should:

- Be clean and in good repair.

Cloth Face Coverings Should Not:

- Fit snugly, but comfortably against the side of the face.
- Be secure.
- Include multiple layers of fabric.
- Allow for breathing without restriction.
- Be able to be laundered and machine dried.
- Be on the wearer's face.
- Be laundered on a daily basis.
- Have anything hanging off the facial covering that would create a food safety hazard.
- Have holes or tears.
- Masks should not be shared with others.

*This protocol is subject to change based on continued guidance from federal, state, and local authorities
Revised October 8, 2020*