

September 2, 2021

Dear Chardon Schools Parent/Guardian:

Our objective continues to be keeping our students engaged through in-person learning on a full-time basis in our classrooms. The Chardon Local Schools Board of Education met on Wednesday, September 1, 2021, to review the issue of requiring facial coverings for students and staff in Chardon Schools. Pursuant to Board of Education Policy 8450.01 - **PROTECTIVE FACIAL MASKS/COVERINGS DURING PANDEMIC/EPIDEMIC EVENTS**, the Board of Education approved a resolution requiring students and staff to wear facial masks/coverings inside the school setting effective Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

FACIAL MASKS/COVERINGS

Facial masks/coverings should:

1. fully cover the mouth, nose, and chin;
2. fit snugly against the side of the face so there are no gaps;
3. not create difficulty breathing while worn; and
4. be held securely through either a tie, elastic, etc. to prevent slipping.

EXEMPTIONS TO FACIAL MASKS/ COVERINGS REQUIREMENT

Exceptions to the use of facial masks/coverings include when:

- A. Facial masks/coverings in the school setting are prohibited by law or regulation;
- B. Facial masks/coverings are in violation of documented industry standards;
- C. Facial masks/coverings are not advisable for health reasons;
- D. Facial masks/coverings are in violation of the school's documented safety policies;
- E. Facial masks/coverings are not required when the individual works alone in an assigned work area;
- F. There is a functional (practical) reason for a staff member or volunteer not to wear a facial mask/covering in the workplace;

G. Settings where facial masks/coverings might present a safety hazard (i.e. science labs);

H. The individual is communicating with students who are hearing impaired or otherwise disabled, where an accommodation is appropriate or necessary;

I. The individual is actively participating in athletic practice, scrimmage, or competition that is permitted under the relevant rules and/or recommendations of the relevant agency or association;

J. The individual is seated and actively consuming food or beverage;

K. Students and staff can maintain distancing of at least three (3) feet and removal of the facial mask/covering is necessary for instructional purposes, including instruction in foreign language, English language for non-native speakers, and other subjects where wearing a facial mask/covering would prohibit participation in normal classroom activities, such as playing an instrument;

L. Students are able to maintain a distance of three (3) feet or more and a facial mask/covering break is deemed necessary by the educator supervising the educational setting;

M. An established sincerely held religious requirement exists that does not permit a facial mask/covering.

If you believe that your child/ren qualify for an exemption from the facial mask/covering requirement, you may complete the Face Covering Exemption Form [HERE](#) (this is a writable PDF form) and email the completed document to ed.klein@chardonschools.org The form is also available for download from the District Response Plan section of the district website, accessible via the top banner of the homepage. The district will be receiving the exemption forms and notifying the necessary school personnel of the student's exemption status.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Our intent with respect to the facial mask/covering requirement is to not put students in the middle of this difficult issue. If a student arrives at school without a facial mask/covering and does not have an exemption on file, the school administrator will discuss the requirement with the student and then contact the parent to attempt to resolve the issue. Disciplinary action will not occur as a result of not wearing a facial mask/covering. However, additional violations of the Code of Conduct stemming from the decision not to wear a facial mask/covering may result in student discipline.

VACCINATION STATUS

The following is completely voluntary on the part of the parent/guardian. Chardon Schools will add a notation in a student's Infinite Campus record indicating vaccination status if the parent voluntarily provides proof of vaccination to the school. This information will be protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and will be used only to assist in evaluating a close contact for possible quarantine. Again, sharing this information with the school is done on a purely voluntary basis.

QUARANTINE

The following information is taken directly from a [guidance document](#) distributed to school districts on August 31, 2021.

How the quarantine process works.

1. Positive case is reported to the school and/or local health department.
2. The local health department works with the school to begin the contact tracing process.
3. Schools will assist the local health department by providing lists of possible direct contacts.
4. The local health department works with the school to assess exposure risk and determines who qualifies as a direct contact through interviews with the case and school officials.
5. The local health department determines the level of exposure and decides if the direct contact needs to be quarantined. Points to consider in determining exposure level:
 - a. Interview with direct contact.
 - b. Check vaccination status.
 - c. Determine whether direct contact was wearing a facial mask/covering.
 - d. Assess direct contact's level of exposure to determine if they spent more than 15 minutes and were less than 3 feet from the case.
6. The local health department works with the school to communicate quarantine determination to the direct contacts.

7. **If voluntary compliance cannot be obtained, children or staff shall be excluded from in-person school and school activities, based on the quarantine order of the local health department, according to Ohio Revised Code 3707.16.**
8. The local health department is responsible for monitoring students or staff during the quarantine period.
9. Quarantined individuals should not participate in in-person activities until they are released from quarantine by the local health department.

Please do not hesitate to contact our offices if you have questions in this regard.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Hanlon, Jr., Ph.D.
Superintendent