DCPS Face Mask Policy

I. Face Mask Requirement for DCPS Students, Staff, and Visitors

In accordance with the Mayor's Order[1] and DC Health[2] and OSSE guidelines,[3] all DCPS students, staff, and visitors are required to wear a face mask while on school property and facilities, except as specified in Sections II and III of this policy.

For the purposes of this guidance, "face masks" include cloth face coverings, such as homemade cloth masks, store-bought fabric masks, medical or surgical masks, bandanas, or other cloth wrapped around the head that covers the mouth and nose and does not include an exhalation value or vent. Prior to entering a DCPS facility, DCPS will provide single-use masks to all students, staff, and visitors who do not have one.

II. Exceptions to the Face Mask Requirement

In accordance with the Mayor's Order[4] and OSSE guidelines,[5] wearing a face mask is not required when:

A. A person is actively eating or drinking and maintains a social "physical" distance of at least six (6) feet from any other person who is not from the same household or residence;

B. A person is engaged in vigorous outdoor exercise (e.g., recess, in the water at a swimming pool) and maintains a social distance of at least six (6) feet from any other person. Under all other outdoor conditions, a face mask must be worn;

C. A person is currently experiencing a medical crisis or otherwise having trouble breathing, or anyone unconscious or unable to remove the mask without assistance;

D. A person is aged younger than two (2) years old;

E. A student has a medical condition or disability that prevents them from wearing a face mask or makes them physically unable to remove a mask and has gone through the waiver process detailed in Section III;

F. A child is participating in naptime (social "physical" distancing of 6 feet should still be maintained during nap time);

G. The equipment required for a job or activity precludes the wearing of a mask or there is a risk of injury from the use of a face mask (e.g., chemistry labs with open flames);

H. A person has been lawfully asked to remove their mask for facial recognition purposes; and

I. Staff may wear face coverings with clear plastic windows, or briefly remove their face coverings, when interacting with students with disabilities identified as having hearing or vision impairments, who require clear speech or lip-reading to access instruction.

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[1] https://coronavirus.dc.gov/maskorder.

[2] https://coronavirus.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/coronavirus/page_content/attachments/COVID-19_DC_Health_Guidance_about_Masks_and_Cloth_Face_Coverings.pdf;
https://coronavirus.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/coronavirus/page_content/attachments/COVID-19_DC_Health_Guidance_For-Schools-Reopening_2020-08-05.pdf.

33https://osse.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/osse/page_content/attachments/Health%20and%20Safety%20Guidance%20for%20Schools%2008.21.20.pdf.

[4] https://coronavirus.dc.gov/maskorder.

53https://osse.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/osse/page_content/attachments/Health%20and%20Safety%20Guidance%20for%20Schools%2008.21.20.pdf.

III. Waivers from the Face Mask Requirement

Under very limited circumstances, students with medical contraindications for wearing a face mask may be exempted from the requirements of Section I. Such students must complete and submit a waiver request[6] to their school prior to entering the building or beginning school in person that includes:

    A. A certification from a medical provider that the student has a medical condition or physical or mental impairment that prevents them from wearing a face mask in school;

    B. A detailed description of why the student cannot wear a face mask and what alternative measures can be used to ensure the health and safety of all students and staff (e.g., plexiglass barriers, clear face shield); and

    C. The signature of a medical provider.

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[6] The student face mask waiver request form is available at
https://dck12.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/HealthServicesDCPS/Eajr6MpzeY5JlWgIOyE13L4BDQAU34mhuJb7RgQ7xXTY5g?e=yPaKYS.