



SEMINOLE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FACE COVERING PROCEDURE FOR STUDENTS

I. Effective August 10, 2021, except as provided in Section VI and VII below, all students must wear a face covering that fits snugly against the side of the face and covers both the mouth and nose while indoors on property owned, leased or operated by the District, at a District activity, or riding a bus or in other approved transportation provided by the District.

II. As referenced in this procedure, “face covering” means a uniform piece of material that fits snugly against the side of the face and securely and completely covers a person’s nose and mouth and remains affixed in place without the use of one’s hands, whether store bought or homemade, consistent with Seminole County Health Department and CDC guidelines. Open-chin triangle bandanas and face coverings containing valves, mesh material, lace, slashes, or holes are not permissible. Additionally, face coverings may not be worn in a manner that obstruct the wearer’s vision or conceals the wearer’s entire face, such as ski masks, gas masks, Halloween masks, costume masks, ninja masks, pantyhose, or full-face masks.

III. All students (preK-12) are required to wear a face covering when they are indoors and are not able to maintain a minimum of six feet of separation from others. Students may remove face coverings while seated for dining. All face coverings must comply with school dress codes and other applicable provisions of the SCPS Conduct & Discipline Code.

IV. All students (preK-12) are required to wear a face covering when riding the District bus transportation. All face coverings must comply with school dress codes and other applicable provisions of the SCPS Conduct & Discipline Code.

V. Each student (preK-12) is expected to supply their own individual face covering that complies with this procedure. The District will maintain emergency supplies of face coverings for those who need them to comply with this procedure.

VI. **Exceptions.** A face covering will not be required for the following:

A. Persons outdoors, when not in a crowded setting.

B. Persons for whom wearing a face covering would cause impairment due to a preexisting health condition or disability and a determination is made that an accommodation is not reasonably available.

C. Persons communicating with hearing-impaired individuals who need to see the other person’s mouth to communicate and a reasonable accommodation is not available.

Policy Citation

Po8450 – Control of Casual Contact Communicable Disease

D. Any person for whom removal of the face covering is necessary for such person to receive health care or to undergo a health care examination from authorized health care personnel, or if a person is experiencing acute trouble breathing, is unconscious or incapacitated and is personally unable to remove the face covering without assistance.

E. Students participating in indoor activities, like physical education, athletics or performing arts, where the wearing of face coverings is not practicable or may create a health risk may not be required to wear face coverings during the activity but must still follow any and all safety procedures in place for the activity, as established by the Superintendent. The District will follow all FHSAA guidance for athletic activities.

VII. **OPT-OUT:** Students, by and through their parent or legal guardian if under the age of eighteen, who have indicated in writing with a note signed by a parent and submitted to school administration that they choose to opt-out of this procedure, will not be required to wear a face covering while on District property. Students who are eighteen and older also have the ability to opt out of this procedure.

This procedure is effective for 30 days, beginning Tuesday, August 10, 2021. We will continue to monitor the situation with our local health experts and make a determination about how to proceed before the 30 days have expired.

Policy Citation

Po8450 – Control of Casual Contact Communicable Disease