

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON USE OF FACE COVERINGS FOR EMPLOYEES, CONTRACTORS & VENDORS

Will face coverings be required in SCPS for Employees?

Yes. Face coverings are required for employees while indoors on all Seminole County Public School property. This is a fluid process and the District will continue to monitor COVID-19 within our community with our local health experts.

Why are face coverings required?

Face coverings are being required based upon best available data and input from local health authorities, CDC guidelines, and stakeholder groups. According to the CDC, face coverings have been shown to be an effective tool in stopping the spread of COVID-19, along with social distancing, frequent hand washing, and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.

What constitutes a face covering that complies with SCPS procedure?

A 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.

Do face shields constitute face coverings that comply with SCPS procedure?

A face shield is primarily used for eye protection for the person wearing it. There is currently not enough evidence to support the effectiveness of face shields and the CDC does not currently recommend use of face shields as a substitute for face coverings. Face shields are permitted only when they are worn in conjunction with a face covering.

Are there any types of face coverings that are prohibited?

Yes, the following are prohibited:

- Open-chin triangle bandanas and face coverings containing valves, mesh material, lace, slashes, or holes are not permissible.
- Face coverings that are 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 are prohibited.

- Any face covering that does not meet the dress code requirements of appropriateness is prohibited.

Who will be required to wear face coverings?

All employees, contractors and vendors will be required to wear face coverings unless an approved exception applies, or social distancing (six feet of separation) can be maintained.

Will employees have to wear face coverings all day?

All employees are required to wear a face covering when they are not able to maintain a minimum of six feet of separation from others (social distancing). Employees may remove face coverings when maintaining social distancing, during high intensity indoor activities, outdoors, and while seated for dining.

Will there be exceptions?

Yes. The following approved exceptions apply: Persons eating or drinking; Persons for whom a face covering would cause an impairment due to an existing health condition or disability and a determination is made that an accommodation is not reasonably available; Persons communicating with hearing impaired individuals who need to see the other person's mouth to communicate and a reasonable accommodation is not available; Public safety personnel whose personal protective equipment requirements are governed by their respective agencies; and any person for whom removal of the face covering is necessary to receive health care or if a person is experiencing acute trouble breathing, is unconscious or incapacitated and is personally unable to remove the face covering without assistance.

Must employees provide their own face coverings?

Yes. The District will have an emergency supply of face coverings that will be offered to employees, if needed.

Will face coverings be required on buses?

Yes. All employees are required to wear a face covering while indoors on property owned, leased or operated by the District, including riding in buses and other approved transportation provided by the District.