

POLICY ON CLOTH FACE COVERINGS

THE ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD ("SCHOOL BOARD") IS AWARE OF THE EVOLVING NEED FOR MITIGATION MEASURES TO RESPOND TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN A MANNER THAT ALLOWS SCHOOLS TO OPEN AND OPERATE AS SAFELY AS POSSIBLE. IN CONSIDERATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED BY THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL, THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE SCHOOL BOARD ADOPTS THIS EMERGENCY POLICY FOR ALL STUDENTS, STAFF, AND VISITORS AND VENDORS OF ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (RCPS).

STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES WILL WEAR A CLOTH FACE COVERING AS PROVIDED HEREIN WHENEVER SITUATED LESS THAN SIX (6') FEET FROM ANY OTHER PERSON.

STUDENTS

UNTIL FURTHER ACTION BY THE SCHOOL BOARD, ALL STUDENTS IN PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH THE 12TH GRADE SHALL BE REQUIRED TO WEAR A CLOTH FACE COVERING: (A) WHILE ATTENDING SCHOOL OR A SCHOOL FUNCTION IN ANY SCHOOL BUILDING, FACILITY, OR OTHER AREA OF A SCHOOL CAMPUS, INCLUDING AT THE TIME OF SCHOOL ENTRY AND EXIT; (B) ON AN APPROVED TRIP AT ANY LOCATION AND, IN THE CASE OF ATHLETIC EVENTS, AT ANY HOME OR AWAY ATHLETIC SITE; AND (C) WHEN RIDING IN SCHOOL-PROVIDED TRANSPORTATION. ALL CLOTH FACE COVERINGS MUST COVER THE NOSE AND MOUTH OF THE STUDENT. THIS POLICY APPLIES TO STUDENTS WAITING OUTSIDE SCHOOL BUILDINGS BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL AND TO STUDENTS WAITING AT BUS STOPS. STUDENTS SHALL WEAR CLOTH FACE COVERINGS AT ALL TIMES, EXCEPT FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- STUDENTS MAY REMOVE CLOTH FACE COVERINGS FOR EATING OR DRINKING; SIX (6') FEET OF SOCIAL DISTANCING TO BE MAINTAINED;
- STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN SPORTING EVENTS AND PRACTICES DO NOT NEED TO WEAR A CLOTH FACE COVERING; HOWEVER, CLOTH FACE COVERINGS ARE REQUIRED FOR PARTICIPANTS NOT ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN A GAME OR PRACTICE, SUCH AS WHEN STANDING ON THE SIDELINES, IN A DUGOUT, AND OFF THE FIELD OF PLAY ANY TIME SIX (6') FEET OF SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURE IS NOT POSSIBLE.
- WHEN STUDENTS ARE PARTICIPATING IN CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL; SIX (6') FEET OF SOCIAL DISTANCING TO BE MAINTAINED;
- STUDENTS MAY BE EXEMPTED FROM THIS POLICY BY THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL DUE TO A DOCUMENTED MEDICAL CONDITION OR DISABILITY OF THE STUDENT;
- STUDENTS MAY BE EXEMPTED FROM THIS POLICY DUE TO SPECIAL BEHAVIORAL OR INDIVIDUALIZED NEEDS AS DETERMINED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION.

CLASSROOM TEACHERS HAVE THE OPTION TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO TAKE A "MASK BREAK" FOR A LIMITED AMOUNT OF TIME (SHALL NOT EXCEED FIVE (5) MINUTES EACH 50 MINUTE PERIOD). MASK BREAKS CAN BE OFFERED IN THE CLASSROOM AT THE TEACHER'S DISCRETION IF STUDENTS ARE SEATED, WORKING QUIETLY, AND SIX (6') FEET OF SOCIAL DISTANCING IS MAINTAINED.

THIS CLOTH FACE COVERING POLICY IS INTENDED TO LIMIT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 AND PRESERVE EFFECTIVE IN-PERSON LEARNING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. FOR STUDENTS WHO REFUSE TO OR, OTHERWISE, DO NOT WEAR A CLOTH FACE COVERING AT SCHOOL, ON SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION, OR AT A SCHOOL FUNCTION UNDER THIS POLICY, EVERY ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO ENSURE THAT THE STUDENTS AND THE STUDENTS' PARENTS UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF WEARING A CLOTH FACE COVERING. THE RCPS WILL, THEN, WORK WITH FAMILIES TO IDENTIFY THE MORE APPROPRIATE LEARNING PATH, INCLUDING VIRTUAL LEARNING, IF STUDENTS FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENT TO WEAR CLOTH FACE COVERINGS AS DETAILED ABOVE.

STAFF

UNTIL FURTHER ACTION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD, ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE RCPS SHALL BE REQUIRED TO WEAR A CLOTH FACE COVERING WHILE WORKING OR ATTENDING A SCHOOL FUNCTION IN ANY SCHOOL BUILDING, FACILITY, OR OTHER AREA OF A SCHOOL CAMPUS. ALL CLOTH FACE COVERINGS MUST COVER THE NOSE AND MOUTH OF THE EMPLOYEE. EMPLOYEES SHALL WEAR A CLOTH FACE COVERING AT ALL TIMES, EXCEPT FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- EMPLOYEES MAY REMOVE CLOTH FACE COVERINGS FOR EATING OR DRINKING; SIX (6') FEET OF SOCIAL DISTANCING TO BE MAINTAINED;
- EMPLOYEES MAY BE EXEMPTED FROM THIS POLICY BY THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OR THE SUPERINTENDENT/DESIGNEE DUE TO A DOCUMENTED MEDICAL CONDITION OR DISABILITY OF THE EMPLOYEE.
- EMPLOYEES MAY REMOVE CLOTH FACE COVERING WHEN IN THEIR CLASSROOM ALONE.
- EMPLOYEES MAY REMOVE CLOTH FACE COVERINGS WHEN ALLOWING STUDENTS TO TAKE A MASK BREAK IN THEIR CLASSROOM. MASK BREAKS CAN BE OFFERED TO STUDENTS IN THE CLASSROOM AT THE TEACHER'S DISCRETION IF STUDENTS ARE SEATED, WORKING QUIETLY, AND SIX (6') FEET OF SOCIAL DISTANCING IS MAINTAINED.

VISITORS AND VENDORS

UNTIL FURTHER ACTION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD, ALL VISITORS AND VENDORS TO THE RCPS SHALL BE REQUIRED TO WEAR A CLOTH FACE COVERING WHILE PRESENT IN ANY SCHOOL BUILDING, FACILITY, OR OTHER AREA OF A SCHOOL CAMPUS.

CHILDREN AND STAFF IN CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

THE REQUIREMENT TO WEAR A CLOTH FACE COVERING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THIS POLICY SHALL ALSO APPLY TO ALL CHILDREN AGE TWO (2) AND ABOVE AND CHILD CARE PROVIDERS IN CHILD CARE PROGRAMS LOCATED IN RCPS SCHOOLS, ON AN RCPS SCHOOL CAMPUS, OR OTHER FACILITY IN WHICH THE RCPS IS OPERATING A CHILD CARE PROGRAM FOR THE BENEFIT OF ITS EMPLOYEES.

*RCPS ADMINISTRATION AND THE SCHOOL BOARD WILL CONTINUE TO COLLABORATE WITH THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL, AND THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION THROUGHOUT THIS PANDEMIC. AS INFORMATION REGARDING COVID-19 BECOMES AVAILABLE, THIS POLICY MAY BE UPDATED ACCORDINGLY.

ADOPTED: AUGUST 11, 2020

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS