

Communicable Disease-COVID-19

Exposure Control Plan – Face Covering Resolution

In consideration of the recommendations and guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), and the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Rogers Public School District (RPS) is implementing this Emergency Exposure Control Plan for all students and employees of the district.

FACE COVERINGS

All employees, visitors, and students (Pre-K through 12) are required to wear a face covering while inside school facilities where social distancing is not feasible and on school transportation.

Face coverings shall fully cover the mouth and nose, and the covering should fit snugly against the sides of the face with no gaps. Reusable face coverings should be machine washed or washed by hand and allowed to dry completely after each use.

Student Exceptions

- Students may be exempted from this requirement if it is not possible to wear face coverings due to medical conditions, disability impact, or other health or safety factors. Students with specific health conditions that require they not wear a face covering must provide a physician's note to the school administration.
- No child under two (2) years of age should ever be required to wear a mask.
- Students may remove their face covering when eating, drinking, when directed to by a school employee, or when social distancing can be achieved as determined by a staff member.
- Students may be exempted from this requirement for specific instructional needs such as recess, physical education activities, and extracurricular and athletic activities in accordance with Arkansas Activities Association guidance.
- Students may be exempted from this requirement due to special behavioral or individualized needs as determined by the Director of Special Services.
- Students will be provided face-covering breaks during the day when social distancing can be accomplished.

Employee Exceptions

- Employees may use a clear face shield (provided by the district) in lieu of a face covering when building or district administration determines it a necessity for instructional purposes or when a face mask might impair an employee's vision and prevent him/her from safely performing job duties.
- Employees may remove masks and face coverings for eating and drinking.
- Employees may remove masks and face coverings when appropriate social distancing can be achieved - i.e. working in an office; or outside away from others
- Employees may be exempted from this requirement if it is not possible to wear face coverings due to specific medical conditions, disability impact, or other health or safety factors. A physician's note shall be provided to the employee's administration for this exception.

Due to the ever-changing nature of the COVID-19 virus, the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to immediately modify these requirements, on a temporary basis, as necessary to comply with updated guidance, orders or directives from the Arkansas court system, the Governor of Arkansas, ADH, CDC or DESE.

Should the Superintendent of Schools immediately modify these requirements as necessary to comply with the preceding paragraph, the Superintendent of Schools will notify the Rogers Public Schools Board of Education so that the Board may consider, at its next regular or special meeting, whether this resolution should be amended, modified, or repealed.

This resolution will remain in place and be re-evaluated each month unless amended by the Board or by the Superintendent as outlined above. RPS administration will regularly provide updated local and regional COVID information to the Board, so that the Board can make amendments to this resolution as needed and/or warranted by current data.