

**VAIL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**FACE COVERING POLICY**

Revised August 10, 2020

Safety is our highest priority. In order to protect the safety of all, and to comply with Executive Order 2020-51, all students and staff are required to use a face covering while on District property. In the spirit of the Governor's Order, and to protect our community, the school has extended that requirement to all parents and other visitors when they are on campus. Therefore, until further action of the Board, students, employees, parents, vendors, volunteers and all other visitors shall follow this Policy to protect against the spread of COVID-19 and to help ensure the health, safety and well being of the school community.

**GENERAL**

- A. Face coverings shall be worn at all times while an individual is on District property or at a District or school function, using District provided transportation, or at school bus stops, unless an exception applies (as set forth in this Policy).
- B. Face coverings must fully cover the mouth and nose and fit snugly against the sides of the face with no gaps but allow for breathing without restriction.
- C. Face coverings should not be worn by children under the age of 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
- D. The District will follow its regular procedures to accommodate or otherwise address the special needs of students, employees, or others with disabilities as those needs relate to the face covering requirements set forth in this Policy.
- E. Face shields may be an acceptable alternative to face coverings, as approved by an authorized District employee. Individuals may choose to wear a face shield in addition to a face covering.
- F. Face coverings should not be placed in pockets for later use; to store or transport, they should be folded so the contaminated outside is folded inward and against itself. When possible, the face coverings should be placed in a clean or new paper bag.
- G. Individuals should wash their hands after removing their face covering.
- H. Cloth face coverings should be machine washed or washed by hand and allowed to completely dry after each use. Face coverings that cannot be laundered or cleaned should be thrown away when soiled or damaged.
- I. For purposes of this Policy, the term "physical distance" means a separation of at least six (6) feet between individuals.

**STUDENTS**

- A. This Policy applies to students in kindergarten through 12th grade.
- B. Parents/guardians are responsible for supplying face coverings for their students. Parents/guardians for whom providing face coverings will be a financial hardship should contact their site administrator for assistance. When the District determines clear face coverings are necessary for instructional purposes, clear masks will be provided.

- C. Students shall wear face coverings unless one of the following exceptions apply:
  - The student has trouble breathing.
  - The student is eating or drinking.
  - The student can physically distance, as determined by a District staff member.
  - The student is outside on the playground with physical distancing.
  - The student has been specifically permitted to remove the face covering on a case-by-case basis for specific instructional, medical or other reasons, as determined by an authorized District staff member.
- D. Students will be allowed breaks to remove their face covering throughout the day when physical distancing can be maintained.
- E. Students who fail or refuse to abide by the provisions of this Policy may be subject to discipline consistent with District Policy and/or exclusion from on-site instruction.

**EMPLOYEES**

- A. This Policy applies to all District employees.
- B. In situations defined as high risk by Center for Disease Control (CDC), such as school nurses/health aides and some personal care assistants, the District will provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- C. Employees shall wear face coverings unless one of the following exceptions apply:
  - The employee has trouble breathing.
  - The employee is eating or drinking.
  - The employee can physically distance.
  - The employee must remove the face covering to effectively perform the employee's job for specific instructional or other reasons.
- D. Employees who fail or refuse to abide by the provisions of this Policy may be subject to discipline consistent with District Policy.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (e.g. Parents, Volunteers, Vendors, Visitors)**

- A. This Policy applies to all members of the public.
- B. Members of the public shall wear face coverings unless one of the following exceptions apply:
  - The individual has trouble breathing.
  - The individual is eating or drinking.
  - The individual must remove the face covering to perform the individual's job or fulfill the purpose for which they are on District property or at a District function.
- C. To accommodate parents and other visitors who are unable to use a face covering for a disability-related reason, VUSD has offered and continues to offer opportunities to participate in virtual meetings with staff.

Notwithstanding the school's willingness to work with families to ensure participation, allowing families to meet on campus without the use of a face covering is not an option. Neither state nor federal law requires any accommodation that could endanger others.

Members of the public who fail or refuse to abide by this Policy may be directed to vacate the premises. The District may take any other action deemed appropriate.