



Guidelines for Face Coverings at School

In accordance with our district return to learn plan and CDC recommendations to reduce the spread of COVID-19, Blaine County School District is **requiring** that all staff and students wear a face covering at school while our county is identified as in the yellow, orange or red levels of transmission as defined by CDC data tracker, unless one of the following applies:

- Inability to remove their own face-covering, or
- Have a medical condition precluding them from wearing a face-covering, or
- Other exceptions based on case manager and team decision

Face covering options include:

- A securely attached cloth face-covering which covers the nose and mouth,
- A securely attached medical-grade paper covering which covers the nose and mouth,
OR
- A clear face-shield which wraps around the face and extends to below the chin.



GUIDELINES FOR FACE-COVERINGS AT SCHOOL

The CDC recommends that all people 2 years of age and older wear a cloth face covering in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.

Blaine School District require one of the following face-coverings for all staff and students during the 2021/2022 school year while our county is identified as in the yellow, orange or red levels of transmission as defined by CDC data tracker:

- Securely attached face-coverings that cover the student's nose and mouth. These may be made of cloth or medical-grade paper. These coverings may be homemade or commercially purchased.
- Clear face shields. According to the CDC, if face shields are used without a mask, they should wrap around the wearer's face, and extend to below the chin. Although, at this time, the CDC does not recommend the use of face shields as a substitute for cloth face-coverings, face shields may be an alternative for those who are listed, (above), as exceptions to wearing cloth face-coverings.

Face coverings exceptions are allowed under the following circumstances:

- When outside such as at recess, outdoor learning times, etc.
- Persons with medical conditions or religious exemption that prevent them from wearing a face covering, with appropriate documentation.
- Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
- Other exceptions, based on case manager and team decision, with appropriate documentation.

If your child's healthcare provider has determined that he/she should not wear either of these face coverings, please call the school to request an exemption form, and have your healthcare provider complete and return it to school.

[Face covering exemption](#)

In the event that a face covering exemption is in place for a student, additional mitigation strategies will be implemented for the individual student or other students and staff.

These may include:

- adjusted seating arrangements
- additional physical distancing
- increased sanitation and hand washing