

Northwestern Face-mask Policy

EMPLOYEES

- Face coverings (defined as face-shield and/or face-mask) are required for drivers (Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department of Health, 2020)
- Per the Wayne County Health Department employee face coverings will be required by staff at all times – with the exception of when alone in a room. Employees are required to wear face coverings whenever students are in their classroom, in hallways, and as much as feasibly possible (Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department of Health, 2020).

STUDENTS

- Face Masks are required for all students riding a bus or other school transportation. If a student refuses to wear a mask, the district has the right to refuse to transport the student (WCDH).
- Note that it is a parent responsibility to provide a face-mask. However, Bus drivers will have disposable masks on the bus for those students who are at their stop who have forgotten or do not have their facemask (Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department of Health, 2020).
- All K-12 students are required to wear a mask at all times in buildings unless there is verification and approval of a medical condition or when a staff-member may do a 'mask break'. Each principal will make every effort to spread students and/or reassign staff in order to maximize the amount of space between students and minimize the student numbers.
- The teacher or whomever is supervising students may elect to take "mask breaks" as needed in consideration of potential long periods of mask wearing. These breaks are recommended to be in their seats and be less than 5 minutes in duration.
- Students are expected to wear masks until seating for lunch, assigned area for gym class, classroom, or recess.
- Student Athletes shall practice all face-mask requirements as set forth by OHSAA.
- There are some classes – such as lab situations where students may be permitted to wear face-shields in lieu of masks. Likewise, there are some students with verifiable conditions who, with principal approval, may be permitted to wear face-shields or possibly no mask.
- Per the Governor's order exclusions to student face-mask rules (must be verified and principal approved):
 - ✓ Any child unable to remove the face covering without assistance
 - ✓ A child with a significant behavioral/psychological issue undergoing treatment that is exacerbated specifically by the use of a facial covering (e.g. severe anxiety or a tactile aversion)
 - ✓ A child living with severe autism or with extreme developmental delay who may become agitated or anxious wearing a mask
 - ✓ A child with a facial deformity that causes airway obstruction

VISITORS

- Visitors will be permitted beyond the office by appointment only.
- Masks will be required of all visitors at all times. Nobody is permitted to enter any building or event without a face-mask or face-shield.
- Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis for medical reasons with preapproval of the building principal, athletic director, or superintendent.
- Any visitor or spectator at any activity or event that is inside or on campus is required to wear a mask or face-covering. In addition, each spectator must practice safe social distancing of 6 feet (unless residing in the same household).