

Huber Heights City Schools COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Regarding Face Coverings

Q: Who is required to wear a cloth mask or face covering in the state of Ohio?

A: STATEWIDE MASK ORDER

Governor DeWine announced that beginning on Thursday, July 23, at 6:00 p.m., a statewide mask mandate will go into effect for citizens living in all 88 Ohio counties.

“Our preliminary data indicate that the rate of increase in new cases has slowed in the high-risk counties where masks are already mandated, so we are cautiously optimistic that things are heading in the right direction,” said Governor DeWine. “We believe that requiring masks statewide will make a significant difference and will be key to making sure other counties do not progress to a higher level of increased spread.”

All individuals in Ohio must wear facial coverings in public at all times when:

- At an indoor location that is not a residence
- Outdoors, but unable to maintain six-foot social distance from people who are not household members
- Waiting for, riding, driving, or operating public transportation, such as a taxi, a car service, or a private car used for ride-sharing.

Exclusions include:

- Those with a medical condition or a disability or those communicating with someone with a disability;
- Those who are actively exercising or playing sports;
- Those who are officiants at religious services;
- Those who are actively involved in public safety; or
- Those who are actively eating or drinking.

Q: Who is required to wear face coverings here at school?

A: The Huber Heights Board of Education approved the HHCS 2020-2021 Back to School Plan 2.0:

While we fully understand the concerns with wearing face coverings and challenges they present for students, we need to follow the guidance of the health experts at the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and the Ohio Department of Health.

Huber Heights City Schools is requiring that face coverings be worn by all students, staff, and visitors to our building at all times, while on school grounds and at school sponsored events. This will certainly be a greater challenge for our youngest learners.

We promise to be patient, supportive, and empathic to their unique circumstances; and lovingly help them safely and comfortably wear face coverings during school. Our students need to be in school to maximize their learning and growth potential; and for their social-emotional health.

Huber Heights City Schools will not be able to hold school in-person if we have a spread of the virus in school. Face coverings being worn by all are the most essential pieces of the puzzle; especially given that we cannot guarantee six feet of social distancing in our schools once all students fully return.

Q: Are there exceptions for Huber Heights Schools?

A: Exclusions include:

- Those with a medical condition or a disability or those communicating with someone with a disability;
- When in a classroom or office alone;
- While playing in instrument with the band;
- While eating in the cafeteria;
- Those who are actively exercising or playing sports.

Q: How do face coverings slow the spread of COVID-19?

The virus, which causes COVID-19, is thought to be mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough or sneeze. Many people with COVID-19 do not show any symptoms but can still spread the virus to others, especially those who have had prolonged close contact with another person. Additionally, people can be contagious before they show symptoms of COVID-19. Wearing a face covering will help to protect the people around you if you are infected and do not know it. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) recommend that people should wear a face covering in public to limit the spread of respiratory droplets, especially in situations where social distancing is hard to maintain. Face coverings along with other measures like good hand hygiene and social distancing work together to slow the spread.

Q: How do I wear a face covering?

A face covering can include a paper or disposable mask, cloth mask, neck gaiter, scarf, bandanna, or a religious face covering. A face covering must cover the mouth and nose completely. The covering should not be overly tight or restrictive and should feel comfortable to wear.

Any masks that incorporate a valve that is designed to facilitate easy exhaling, mesh masks, or masks with openings, holes, visible gaps in the design or material, or vents are not sufficient face coverings because they allow droplets to be released from the mask.

Refer to the following resources for additional guidance and tips on how to wear a face covering:

- [Masks and face coverings](#)
- [Facemasks and Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#)
- [CDC: Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19](#)

Q: Why should I wear a face covering?

A: Many people with COVID-19 have no symptoms, so the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises that Americans wear cloth face coverings as a possible way to protect one another from infection. It is important to note that face coverings are not a substitute for other prevention efforts, such as hand-washing, and social distancing. Continue to stay 6 feet from others whenever possible, to clean hands frequently, and to follow the other prevention methods in the below graphic.

Q: How do we know face coverings are effective?

A: Wearing face coverings in the context of other respiratory diseases such as tuberculosis and influenza has been shown to reduce transmission.(1, 2) Model simulations using data from New York and Washington suggest that broad use of face coverings can significantly reduce community transmission of COVID-19 and decrease the number of hospitalizations and deaths.(3) States that have mandated use of face coverings in public have seen a decline in their daily growth rate of COVID-19 cases, and these measures are estimated to have prevented between 230,000 and 450,000 cases.(4) Case studies have shown that universal masking for source control has helped to prevent transmission, including in a hair salon where stylists positive for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) did not transmit to their clients while wearing face coverings.(5) The greatest community benefits are likely to be seen when as many people as possible wear face coverings in combination with other prevention measures such as social distancing and hand hygiene.

Q: Where can I get a face covering?

A: Masks or cloth coverings can be purchased or handmade. There is not a list of approved vendors. When buying or making a face covering, remember to check that it meets the following requirements:

- Completely covers the mouth and nose.
- Is not overly tight or restrictive.
- The face covering must not be made of mesh or other fabric with holes and must **not** have a valve designed to facilitate easy exhaling or other openings, holes, visible gaps in the design or material, or vents.

If making a mask, there are many resources available to assist, including:

[How to Make Cloth Face Coverings](#)

This CDC page includes sew and no sew written instructions, as well as a video guide.

Q: How can I prepare my child for wearing facemasks at schools?

A: A best practice in preparing for the start of the school year is to create positive experiences for your child with face coverings. Helping them prepare by trying on different styles of face covering and finding one that is most comfortable for them to wear will go a long way towards making them feel comfortable coming back to school. Consider breathability, covering of the nose and chin, and overall style. A good idea is to plan for each of your children to have 3-6 face coverings to wear and launder on a regular basis. Our schools will have disposable face coverings available for students who forget to bring a mask to school or on the bus, and will continue to order more supplies as needed