



BEDFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**School Health Services**  
THE FOX LANE CAMPUS 632 South Bedford Rd.  
Bedford, NY 10506  
914-241-6000

Dr. Joel Adelberg  
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Louis Corsaro  
Medical Director

---

## **BCSD FACE MASK PROTOCOLS**

Masks act as a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the face mask, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. Face masks can help reduce the transmission of Covid-19. Therefore, district staff, students and visitors are required to wear face masks at all times. The district will provide employees and students with face masks if needed.

### **TYPES OF MASKS NOT ALLOWED IN SCHOOL**

1. Masks with exhalation valves or vents
2. Bandanas
3. Gaiters

### **CORRECT MASK PLACEMENT**

1. Wash your hands before putting on the mask.
2. Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin.
3. Fit it snugly against the sides of your face.
4. Make sure you can breathe easily.
5. Teachers and staff should wash their hands before and after helping a student put on or adjust the face mask.

### **MASK MAINTENANCE**

1. Cloth face masks must be washed daily, at home.
2. Masks may **NOT** be shared.
3. Masks should be stored properly in a zip-lock bag when not in use (e.g. during lunch).
4. Students should bring an extra mask to school, placed in a labeled zip-lock bag, in the event that the mask in use gets soiled or damaged.
5. Single-use face masks must be discarded when soiled and at the end of the day.

## **STUDENTS MUST WEAR A MASK WHEN**

1. At the bus stop while waiting for the school bus
2. On the school bus on their way to/from school
3. Prior to exiting their parent's car (if driven to school)
4. At all times while on school property, unless otherwise instructed by teachers and/or other school personnel

### **Exceptions for not wearing a face mask are allowed under the following circumstances:**

1. When a student is in extreme heat outdoors
2. If a student's documented medical condition or disability as reflected in an IEP, precludes the use of a face covering
3. When a student is eating or drinking
4. When a student, who is maintaining 12 ft. distance, is engaged in high intensity aerobic activity and wearing a mask causes difficulty breathing
5. During a band or chorus class when individuals are outside or in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of at least 12 feet apart
6. When a student has trouble breathing or is unconscious
7. When a student is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance

## **PE/MUSIC/CHOIR CLASS**

Vigorous exercise, as well as music and choir classes in a confined space (e.g. indoors) may contribute to transmission of COVID-19. These activities should be conducted in an area with greater ventilation or exchange (e.g. outdoors). When students are not singing or playing an instrument that requires the use of their mouth, they should wear a mask in music class (unless class is outdoors and at least 6 feet distance can be maintained).

## **ADAPTATIONS AND ALTERNATIVES**

While masks are required to reduce the spread of COVID-19, there are specific instances when wearing a mask may not be feasible. In these instances, parents, guardians, caregivers, teachers, and school administrators should consider adaptations and alternatives whenever possible. They may need to consult with their healthcare provider for advice about wearing a mask. A healthcare provider must provide documentation stating they are not medically able to tolerate a mask/face covering.

1. **Deaf or Hard of Hearing** - The person may be unable to wear a face covering if they rely on lip reading to communicate. In this situation, consider using a clear mask. If a clear mask isn't available, consider whether you can use written communication, use closed captioning, or decrease background noise to make communication possible while wearing a mask that blocks the lips.

2. **Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Mental Health Conditions -**  
They should consult with their healthcare provider for advice about wearing a mask. The healthcare provider will need to send a written decision to the school on how to best meet the child's needs while at the same time maintaining the health and safety needs of all students and school personnel.
3. **Young Children** - (early elementary age) may be unable to wear a mask properly, particularly for an extended period of time. Wearing of masks must be prioritized when it is difficult to maintain a distance of 6 feet from others (e.g., during carpool drop off or pick up, or when standing in line at school). Ensuring proper mask size and fit and providing children with frequent reminders and education on the importance and proper wear of masks may help address these issues.
4. **Mask Breaks - There will be designated mask breaks during the school day. Two of these breaks will be during breakfast and lunch and the others will be while students are seated at least six feet apart. Teachers will schedule the mask breaks. Students are expected to wear face masks outside except during brief mask breaks for 30-60 seconds and when vigorously exercising during which they need to social distance by 12 feet .**