



HARRIS-LAKE PARK SCHOOLS

November 10th, 2020

Face Coverings at Harris-Lake Park

At this time during the COVID-19 Pandemic, it is required that face coverings be worn during the school day by staff and students for those who are able.

Wearing cloth masks does not replace the need to continue frequent hand washing, avoiding touching the face, staying home when you are ill, and practicing physical distancing, which in combination, are all our best strategies to help prevent the spread of illness.

The following outlines the basic guidelines for wearing face coverings at school. Harris-Lake Park Schools guidelines for wearing face coverings will change as we learn more and learn what feasibly works for our environment. Parents will be notified if the guidance changes.

Types of Face Covering

- All types of face coverings are allowed with the exception of masks with valves
- The face covering must cover the nose and mouth

Face Coverings Provided from Home

- Students can supply their own from home as long as it complies with the guidelines.
- The school will provide a face covering to use at school if the student does not have one.
- At minimum, for masks and neck gaiters, it's recommended that two be at school on a given day. One to wear, and one as a replacement if one is soiled. More are encouraged. The extra can be stored in a separate, labeled bag, with the student's name.

General Recommendations

- Face coverings worn properly should allow for breathing without restriction.
- A face covering should not be worn if the person has trouble breathing or the person cannot remove the face covering without assistance.
- Some people are not able to wear a face covering for medical or developmental reasons. In these situations, simply contact your building principal or school nurse to discuss.

When to Wear a Face Covering

- Face coverings should be worn, at minimum, when physical distancing cannot be maintained. It is best to minimize taking face coverings on and off frequently.
- Teachers will work with students and explain appropriate times during the day when face coverings can be removed safely. There will be many "mask breaks" throughout the student's day.
- When face coverings are not in use, it's recommended that the face covering be connected to the person, placed in the designated individual's labeled bag, in their pocket, or on a designated table on a clean paper towel as appropriate for the type of face covering used.

Other Specifics

- Face coverings cannot have offensive print or language according to student dress code
- Sharing, trying on, or touching others' masks is not allowed
- Students are not allowed to bring masks to school for peers/friends

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Q: When you say “any type” of face covering can be worn, what do you mean?

A: Any mask (disposable or cloth), “neck gaiter”, scarf, etc, is acceptable as long as it covers the nose and mouth completely. It’s recommended that it stays in place over the nose and mouth without needing to touch it frequently. Face shields are not acceptable at this time.

Masks or gaiters with valves, mesh masks, masks with openings or holes are not sufficient.

2. Q: If my child is wearing a face covering and is exposed to someone with COVID-19 (is considered a “close contact” -within 6 feet for over 15 minutes), will my child still need to quarantine since they were wearing a face covering?

A: No, according to the current Iowa Department of Public Health and local public health department. If both parties are wearing masks only the person with COVID-19 will need to quarantine. [Click here for guidance.](#)

3. Q: When can my child take their face covering off during school?

A: Face coverings can be removed at appropriate times when physical distancing is implemented. Teachers will communicate to the students the appropriate times when face coverings can be removed and where to safely store the face covering when not in use. Each class may have a different system based on the age of the student and situation. For example, students will be able to take face coverings off when physical distancing is being maintained, during recess if appropriate, obviously for eating, etc. Students will always be allowed to take a “mask break” if necessary, by simply going to an area where they can physically distance from others and take their mask off.

- It is best practice to minimize taking the mask on and off as much as possible.
- Avoid touching the outside of the face covering.
- At school, face coverings not in use, it’s recommended that the face covering be connected to the person, placed in the designated individual’s labeled bag, or on a designated table on a clean paper towel as appropriate for the type of face covering used.
- Wash/ sanitize hands before and after touching a face covering
- Avoiding touching the front of the mask or face shield.

4. Q: What about masks and extra-curricular activities?

A: Students attending extracurricular activities will be required to wear a face covering

- Coaches will be required to wear a face mask at all times during practices
- Players will be asked to wear a face mask during practices when possible and players cannot social distance
- Coaches and players will not be required to wear face masks during games

5. Q: What happens if my students don’t want to wear a mask or refuse?

A: Students can sign up for the online option, this will begin on Thursday, November 12th. Contact the building principal to get this arranged.

- If a student does not sign up for the online option they must wear their face covering at school
 - If students do not wear their face mask they will be sent to the office and will work there, if they choose not to wear the mask they will be sent home.

6. Q: Should I reuse a mask, or wash the mask?

A: Due to short supply, masks are commonly reused or washed. Recommendations include:

Cloth masks should be washed after a day of use, before wearing it again.

A disposable mask can be reused if the mask is not visibly soiled and has sat unused for 5 days before wearing again.

It is recommended that disposable masks be discarded if they become visibility soiled or wet. Cloth masks can be washed if visibility soiled or wet.

7. Q: What if my child forgets their face covering, or it gets dirty at school.

A: It is recommended that you have, at minimum, a clean “back up” face covering safely packed in the child’s backpack each day. This will help eliminate the situation of not having one available. Parents are encouraged to have several available in their child’s backpack, making sure a system is in place to know which coverings are clean vs dirty.

If the child does not have a face covering or it gets soiled at school, the school will make arrangements for the student appropriately to have one available.

8. Q: What if I don’t have the means or resources to get a face covering for my child?

A: Simply contact your child’s teacher or principal and arrangements will be made for your child. The school will have masks for students to wear.

9. Q: What if my child’s face covering becomes dirty, soiled, or wet during the school day?

A: If brought from home, teachers will guide the student to place their face covering in a labeled bag in their backpack to be transported home to be cleaned / sanitized appropriately. A clean face covering will be put on. A clean one will be provided if necessary. It is encouraged to have several “back up” coverings on hand in their backpack in case of this situation.

10. Q: Where do I buy a face shield or mask for my child?

A: Face coverings are more readily available now than they were at the beginning of the pandemic. Many local stores are selling face masks and other types of face coverings. There are multiple variations of masks, face shields and neck gaiters available on-line as well.

11. Q: My child is not able to wear a face covering, what do I do?

A: We realize that some students may not be able to wear a face covering for a variety of medical or developmental reasons. Simply contact your school nurse and school principal to discuss.

REFERENCES:

1. [CDC Press Release](#) Tuesday, July 14. 2020
2. [CDC - How to Wear Cloth Facecoverings](#)
3. [CDC - Considerations for Wearing Cloth Face Coverings](#)
4. [CDC - How to Wash Cloth Face Coverings](#)
5. [CDC - Considerations for Wearing Masks](#)