



# Monroe Local Schools

## Home of the Hornets

Central Office: 500 Yankee Road, Monroe, OH 45050 ■ p: (513) 539-2536 ■ f: (513) 539-2648

The Board of Education is committed to providing students, teachers, staff, and visitors with a safe and healthy environment. This policy is in the event the State of Ohio, Butler County, and/or the City of Monroe is in a declared pandemic, as defined by the State of Ohio.

In order to maintain a healthy environment, the Board will follow the mandates and requirements set forth by the federal government, Center for Disease Control (CDC), Ohio Governor, Ohio State Health Department, Butler County Health Department, Ohio Department of Education (ODE), and other entities (“Directing Entities”) as it relates to protecting the health of students, teachers, and staff. If any of these Directing Entities requires teachers, staff, students, and/or visitors to wear cloth face coverings (masks/gaiter) while attending school, reporting to work at a school, or visiting a school, the Board will follow and enforce such directives.

As of July 2020, pursuant to COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools issued by the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Education, all teachers and staff members must wear face coverings (masks/gaiter).

Students in preschool through twelfth grade (PreK-12) will be required to wear masks on buses, in large common gathering areas (entering/exiting the building, hallways, lunch lines, etc.), and in classrooms. Specific mask breaks in classrooms will be given per teacher direction.

Face Masks/Gaiter/Coverings should:

- Fully cover the mouth, nose, and chin;
- Not create difficulty breathing while worn; and
- Be held secure through either a tie, elastic, etc. To prevent slipping.
- Not disrupt the education process.

Face coverings shall not include surgical masks, respirators (as those should be reserved for healthcare workers), or masks designed to be worn for costume purposes, etc. All face coverings will not disrupt the educational process and shall meet the requirements of the appropriate dress code policies and/or codes of conduct. Building administration will work with teaching staff to determine times when it is deemed impractical for students to wear face coverings during the school day and/or extracurricular events.



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Exceptions to this face coverings policy may be made for the following:

- Children younger than 2 years old;
- Anyone who has trouble breathing;
- Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance;
- Facial coverings are in violation of documented industry standards;
- Facial coverings will significantly interfere with the learning process;
- Individuals who have received approval from District administration after discussing their request not to wear a face covering/mask due to a physical, mental or developmental health condition, if wearing a mask would lead to a medical emergency or would introduce significant safety concerns
  - In this exception, the District administration may also discuss other possible accommodations for the student or staff member. Such discussion shall follow District policies and procedures under Section 504 and the ADA.

An appeal form for face coverings/masks/gaiter will be available through the school building nurse. This appeal form will need to be filled out by the parent with documentation provided by the doctor/physician expressly giving permission to not wearing a face covering/mask/gaiter for medical or psychological reasons.

Monroe Local School District is required to provide written justification to the local health officials upon request explaining why a staff member is not required to wear a facial covering in the school. Therefore, if any of the above exceptions are made, the request for such exception must be submitted in writing to the individual's supervisor, and a decision on the request will be provided in writing. An individual may be required to wear a face shield or other face covering as appropriate for an accommodation of this face covering requirement.

If face covering/masks/gaiter are required, and no exception has been applied, students and/or staff who violate this policy could be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the applicable Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code, Staff Code of Conduct, and in accordance with policies of the Board.

Any school nurse, teacher, or staff who care for individuals with COVID-19 symptoms must use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).