

San Dieguito Union High School District

Student Mask and Face Covering

AR 5132.1

Students

To help protect students and staff, San Dieguito Union High School District will require that all staff and students wear masks or face coverings unless an exemption or exception applies. Students are encouraged to wear their own masks from home, however, the District will provide masks and face coverings to all students and staff without cost. The District will provide all parents/guardians and students with a notice of this regulation. Parents/guardians will be asked to sign an acknowledgement form that they have received the notice of this regulation.

This Administrative Regulation is consistent with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Guidelines for the Use of Face Coverings dated November 16, 2020 and the San Diego County Public Health Order.

If the guidelines or the public health order changes the requirements for masks or face coverings in schools, those changes will be considered controlling and the changes will be incorporated into this regulation or result in its elimination.

Exemptions

Students with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance. Such conditions are rare. Exemptions will require proof from a medical doctor or physician.

Students who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.

A student's Section 504 team or IEP team can determine that a student is exempt from wearing a mask or face covering based on the exemptions identified above.

If a student meets one of these exemptions, the student is not required to wear a mask or face covering. However, the principal will consult with the student's parents/guardians and, if appropriate, the student's medical provider to determine if an alternative to a mask or face covering (e.g., face shield with or without a drape) is appropriate.

Students with disabilities should not be excluded from instruction for removing a mask or face covering if the removal is in connection with a disability. A student's 504 team or IEP team will determine if the student's removal of a mask or face covering is in connection with the student's disability. In such situations, the school site's 504 coordinator or the student's special education case manager will consult with the student's parents/guardians, and other District staff members to determine whether one or more of the following is appropriate: (a) an alternative to a mask or face covering (e.g., face shield with or without a drape); (b) a plan to increase the student's

ability to wear a mask or face covering; (c) a modified instructional environment which may include additional distance or in an outdoor setting; (d) additional plexiglass partitions; (e) training regarding holding a mask or face covering in front of the face; (f) other appropriate accommodations.

Exceptions

- The District recognizes that some students may require periodic breaks from wearing a mask or face covering or may require removal of the mask or face covering to, among other things, adjust the mask or face covering. Students who are outdoors and maintaining at least 6 feet of social distancing from others may be allowed to remove their mask.
- Students are not required to wear a mask or face covering when eating or drinking so long as the student is at least six feet away from other students or staff members.

Emergency Situations

If a student is having trouble breathing or reports trouble breathing while wearing a mask or face covering, the student shall be immediately allowed to remove the mask or face covering. A staff member shall immediately direct the student to the front office. To the extent possible, the student should stay at least six feet away from other students or staff members when the student is not wearing a mask or face covering.

Consequences for Violating Mask Guidelines

Teachers and school staff should provide verbal warnings to students who remove a mask or face covering and allow students an opportunity to put back on a mask or face covering before taking the steps identified below.

First Violation The teacher provides a verbal explanation to the student on the mask or face covering requirement and underlying safety reasons for wearing a mask or face covering. The teacher determines if the student is experiencing any difficulty with wearing a mask or face covering and, as appropriate, addresses any difficulty the student is facing (e.g., the mask is too tight, the mask is leading to fog in the student's glasses, etc.). The teacher also calls or sends an email to the student's parents/guardians to inform them that the student has not complied with the mask or face covering requirement. The teacher consults with the parents/guardians to determine if the student is experiencing any difficulty with wearing a mask or face covering and, as appropriate, address the difficulty the student is facing.

Second Violation The teacher notifies school administration. A site administrator calls and, for documentation, emails the student's parents/guardians to inform them that the student has not complied with the mask or face covering requirement on two separate occasions and informs them that the student will not be permitted to attend in-person learning if a third violation occurs. The principal provides the parents/guardians and the student, if appropriate, the opportunity to respond and discuss the violations.

Third Violation The teacher notifies school administration that the student has not complied with the mask or face covering requirement on three separate occasions and provides documentation. A school administrator calls and, for documentation, emails the student's parents/guardians to inform them that the student has not complied with the mask or face covering requirement on three separate occasions and that the student will not be permitted to attend in-person instruction due to health and safety concerns.

The student may be able to return to in-person learning after a period of at least 14 school days if both the student and parents/guardians provide confirmation to the principal that the student will comply with the mask and face covering requirement. Upon returning only one violation will be issued for not wearing a face covering.

Board Adopted: December 15, 2020