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Guidelines for Face Coverings in School

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) **requires** students and staff to wear masks over the mouth and nose on all school buses in accordance with a federal transportation order. In accordance with the order, ACPS will require students and staff to wear a mask at all times on school buses. Students may wear their own mask or one will be provided for them.

On August 13, 2021, the school board voted on an amendment to the 2021-2022 Reopening Plan to begin the school year **requiring** that all students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, wear masks indoors. This mandate becomes effective Monday, August 16, 2021. ACPS will continue to work collaboratively with the ACHD throughout the pandemic, and beginning October 1, 2021, will begin to monitor the CDC data tracker for Allegheny County. If the metrics place Allegheny County in the low or moderate classification for two consecutive Fridays for community transmission, masks inside buildings will be recommended but not required. Masks continue to be optional outdoors. This aligns with CDC recommendations that in communities of substantial or high spread of Covid-19, all individuals wear masks indoors regardless of vaccination status.

The specific requirements are below:

- All students, school staff or other adults, and bus drivers must wear a cloth face covering while on a school bus or school-provided transport, and while in the school building, when not contraindicated due to a medical condition, developmental immaturity, disability, or other health or safety concerns as indicated by the CDC. ACPS will also permit surgical masks in place of cloth masks;
- The CDC does not recommend the use of single layer gaiters or face shields as a substitute for a cloth face mask. ACPS does not permit these as a substitute for a cloth face mask.

NOTE: Cloth face coverings should not be worn by children under the age of 2 years and anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance.