



RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Wearing Masks and Face Coverings

The Board of Education is mindful of the evolving need for emergency measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. In consideration of the recommendations issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Sauk County Health Department, the Board is adopting this emergency policy for all students, employees, volunteers, and visitors of River Valley School District.

DEFINITIONS

- a. “Enclosed Space” means a confined space open to the public where individuals congregate including, but not limited to, outdoor restaurants, outdoor park structures, taxis, public transit, and ride-share vehicles.
- b. “Face Covering” means a piece of cloth or other material that is worn to cover the nose and mouth completely. This includes, but is not limited to, a bandana, a cloth face mask, a disposable or paper mask, a neck gaiter, a religious face covering, or a “Badger Shield” (see illustration at <https://making.engr.wisc.edu/badger-shield-plus/>). (A “Badger Shield” IS considered a face covering, not a face shield, since it covers the nose and mouth completely.)

A mask or face covering DOES NOT include face shields, mesh masks, masks with holes or openings, or masks with vents.

- c. “Physical distancing” means maintaining at least 6 feet of distance from other individuals who are not members of your household or living unit.

Every individual shall wear a face covering if both of the following apply:

- a. The individual is indoors or in an enclosed space.
- b. Another person or persons who are not members of an individual’s household or living unit are present in the same room or enclosed space.

EXCEPTION: Staff do not need to wear a face covering in a. and b. above if every individual present has either been vaccinated or has been offered the opportunity to be vaccinated but has declined. When students are present, masks are required.

CAN I WEAR A FACE SHIELD INSTEAD OF A FACE COVERING?

No. According to CDC guidelines, a face shield does not provide the same protections as a face covering. You can wear a face shield *in addition to* a face covering, but a face shield cannot be used in place of a face covering that would otherwise be required by this policy.

STUDENTS

Until further action of the Board, all students shall be required to wear a mask or face covering:

- (a) While attending school or a school function in any school building, facility or other area of a school campus; and
- (b) When riding in school-provided transportation.

All masks and face coverings must cover the nose and mouth of the student. This policy applies to students waiting outside school buildings before and after school, and to students waiting at bus stops on school premises. Students shall wear masks and face coverings at all times except for the following:

- Students may remove masks and face coverings for eating or drinking.
- Students may be exempted from this policy by a review with the medical advisor and school nurse. Must provide recent medical condition and recommendation from student care provider of reasoning of not being able to wear a face mask.
- Students may remove masks and face coverings on a case-by-case basis for specific instructional needs and other activities, if approved by school principal or school nurse, in which case the teacher will utilize appropriate social distancing measures.
- Students may be exempted from this policy due to special behavioral or individualized needs as determined by the Director of Pupil Services.

Students who refuse to wear a mask or face covering at school or at a school function under this policy shall be required to leave the school campus consistent with Board Policy 443.1 Student Dress Code. Students who refuse to wear a mask or face covering on a school bus shall be subject to Board Policy 443.2 Student Conduct on School Buses.

EMPLOYEES and VOLUNTEERS

Until further action of the Board, all employees of River Valley School District shall be required to wear a mask or face covering while working or attending a school function in any school building, facility, or other area of a school campus. All masks and face coverings must cover the nose and mouth of the employee.

Employees shall wear masks and face coverings at all times, except for the following:

- Employees may remove masks and face coverings for eating and drinking.
- Employees may be exempted from this policy by a review with the District Administrator, medical advisor, and school nurse. Employees must provide recent medical condition and recommendation from their care provider of reasoning of not being able to wear a face mask.
- Employees may remove masks and face coverings on a case-by-case basis for specific instructional needs and other activities. Keep in mind to utilize social distancing of 6 feet.

Employees who refuse to wear a mask or face covering at school or at a school function under this policy shall be subject to Board Policy 536 Professional Staff Evaluation and state laws regarding the evaluation of employee contracts.

VISITORS

Until further action of the Board, all visitors to the River Valley School District shall be required to wear a mask or face covering while present in any school building, facility or other area of a school campus and when riding in school-provided transportation.

CROSS REFERENCE: 443.1 Student Dress Code
443.2 Student Conduct on School Buses
536 Professional Staff Evaluation
High School Mask Guideline
Middle School Mask Guideline
Elementary School and Early Learning Center Mask Guideline

<https://making.engr.wisc.edu/badger-shield-plus/>

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