

Book Policy Manual  
Title Mandatory Face Coverings during COVID-19 Emergency  
Code po0121ER-2020

**PO0121ER-2020, *Mandatory Face Coverings during COVID-19 Emergency***

**Whereas**, the State of Florida has been under a declared state of emergency as result of the COVID-19 pandemic since March 9, 2020.

**Whereas**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone wash their hands often, avoid close contact, and cover their mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>.

**Whereas**, the wearing of facial coverings is required in Alachua County under the First Amendment to Emergency Order 20-30. See <https://alachuacounty.us/Depts/Communications/Documents/ADACompliant/EO%2020-30%20Phase%202%20Order%20First%20Amendment%20signature.pdf>.

**Therefore**, pursuant to the authority of the School Board under Article IX, section 4 of the Florida Constitution, as well as sections 1001.32, 1001.41, 1001.42, and 1001.43, Florida Statutes, the School Board of Alachua County adopts the following emergency policy:

- I. Effective immediately, all persons (students, staff, contractors, vendors, and visitors) must wear appropriate face coverings that cover both the mouth and nose when on school board property, at a school board activity, or riding a bus or in other approved transportation.
- II. All persons must have a mask with them at all times while on district property even if they are in a location where they currently are able to maintain social distancing.
- III. The wearing of a mask is a health issue. Student compliance will be dealt with as a health issue, not as a disciplinary issue.
- IV. The district will provide students and staff with a supply of cloth masks or other appropriate facial coverings and will maintain emergency supplies of disposable face coverings so that no student will be in a position where they will not have access to a mask.
- V. To promote the social and emotional health of students who may struggle wearing a face covering for several hours, schools will provide students with opportunities for breaks where they can remove their face covering while maintaining appropriate distancing and while under supervision.

- VI. Exceptions.
- A. Children in kindergarten and below will be educated, encouraged and expected to wear face coverings, but failure to wear a face covering will not prohibit their attendance if they are unable to wear a face covering at all times.
  - B. Wearing a face covering is not required while eating or drinking.
  - C. Persons who have difficulty breathing or suffer sensory issues due to a documented medical or psychological issue will not be required to wear a face covering. If appropriate, they will be asked to wear a clear faceguard, unless wearing the faceguard would also cause breathing or sensory issues. Documentation from a medical provider must be on file before a person will be excused from this face covering requirement.
  - D. Persons communicating with hearing-impaired individuals who need to see the other person's mouth to communicate will not be required to wear a face covering.
  - E. Teachers, staff members, and students, at the direction of the teacher, may remove their face coverings when wearing them would impede instruction.
  - F. Students participating in extracurricular activities, like athletics or marching band, where the wearing of face coverings is not practicable or may create a health risk will not be required to wear face coverings during the activity but must still follow any and all safety procedures in place for the activity. The district will follow all FHSAA guidance for athletic activities.
- VII. This Emergency Policy takes effect on July 15, 2020, and will remain in effect for 90 days unless extended pursuant to section 120.54(4), Florida Statutes.