

TRUMBULL COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Policy

Section 8.41

USE OF FACE COVERINGS

PURPOSE:

This policy outlines the requirement for use of face coverings and applies to students, individuals served, family members, employees of the Board, visitors, contractors, and other individuals who enter Board locations.

POLICY:

Recognizing the importance of face coverings (masks) as one of the comprehensive measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Board directs the Superintendent to work with the local health department to develop procedures, considering the guidance provided by the Ohio Department of Health for the use of face coverings in all Board facilities and during Board provided transportation.

The use of face coverings is one part of the comprehensive plan in place for all individuals served and employees to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and support a healthy workplace. Recognizing that available scientific information and local needs may change, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to continue to review and adjust face covering procedures in consultation with health officials.

All face covering procedures and any changes to procedures will be clearly communicated to all staff, visitors, parents and students, and individuals served in a timely manner. At no time may the Superintendent require any less for face coverings than may be required by law or health department requirement.

At minimum, face coverings should be cloth/fabric and be properly worn to cover an individual's nose, mouth, and chin. Clear face shields may be utilized as appropriate in lieu of a face covering.

Staff and Visitors:

All staff and visitors who do not meet one of the listed exceptions are required to wear face coverings in the work setting unless it is unsafe to do so or doing so would significantly interfere with communication and/or learning of students or individuals served.

As outlined by the Ohio Department of Health exceptions include when:

1. Facial coverings in the school setting are prohibited by law or regulation;
2. Facial coverings are in violation of documented industry standards;
3. Facial coverings are not advisable for health reasons;
4. Facial coverings are in violation of the Board's documented safety policies;

5. Facial coverings are not required when the staff works alone in an assigned work area;
6. There is a functional (practical) reason for a staff member or volunteer to not to wear a facial covering in the workplace.

The Board will provide written justification to local health officials, upon request, explaining why a staff member is not required to wear a face covering while at work.

School nurses or staff who care for individuals will utilize appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) provided by the Board any time the student or individual requires personal care such as changing and feeding. Gloves should be changed and hands washed between each student or person receiving care.

Students/Individuals Served:

The Board directs the Superintendent to work in consultation with local health officials to develop detailed procedures for the use of face coverings by students or individuals served that will take into consideration currently available guidance from state and local health departments with the understanding that this guidance will continue to change over time.

The procedures will provide direction when there is a health or developmental reason for which a student or individual served cannot wear a face covering. The Board will take steps to reduce any social stigma for students or individuals who, for medical or developmental reasons, cannot and should not wear a face covering.

Additional considerations:

The Board will provide staff training and age appropriate instruction for students and individuals served on appropriate use of face coverings and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

The Board recognizes not all children or individuals served will be able to tolerate a face covering due to health or developmental reasons. Students and individuals served will be encouraged to wear a mask as appropriate but services will not be denied if they are not able to keep a mask on.

The Board directs the Superintendent to determine the need for disposable face coverings to be provided in buildings where appropriate and necessary.


Board President


Superintendent

Adopted: 4/27/2020

References:

Ohio Department of Health
- COVID-19 Health and
Prevention Guidance for
Ohio K-12 Schools