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Mask Safety

1 message

TUCKAHOE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT <email@blackboard.com>

Sat, Aug 15, 2020 at 12:07 PM

Reply-To: email@blackboard.com

To: mazzilloj@tuckahoeschools.org



August 15, 2020

Dear Parents,

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, we look to the fall with the well-being of students, teachers, staff, and the Tuckahoe community in mind. We have decided that all students and staff should wear masks in the school. This is one of the numerous safety policies and procedures that have enabled us to feel confident in our process. The primary purpose of wearing a face mask/covering is to reduce the number of respiratory droplets released into the air when an individual speaks, sneezes, and/or coughs.

By this point, it's pretty clear that one of the best things we can do to protect ourselves and others from the coronavirus is wearing a facemask when in public.

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/p0714-americans-to-wear-masks.html>

And now, the CDC has updated its face mask recommendations, warning people that masks that have built in valves or vents aren't actually effective in helping slow the spread of the virus. Additionally, a recent study warned of the possible ineffectiveness of gaiter types of masks. Using thin, stretchy neck gaiters as a face covering might be less effective at stopping the spread of the coronavirus.

We need to explain to children that the purpose of wearing the mask is to prevent them and others from getting the virus and other germs. For older children, relate wearing a mask to something they understand. Most students can understand the concept of spreading germs and the need for certain preventive measures such as handwashing.

Please get your child a comfortable safe mask if they are attending in-person education, as they will be required to wear one as protection for themselves and others.

To assist your child in becoming more comfortable wearing a mask, we have created a resource on our website that you can access [here](#). It is a lesson of kindness and civic responsibility as well as a healthy habit for them to learn. We will supply a mask to children who do not have one.

Face coverings do work and may indeed be the most important thing we can do. Masking when inside or when we cannot maintain distance outdoors is essential. They protect you and those around you, but it is important to wear them correctly. They must cover your nose and mouth in order to be protective.

Although we may wish our students could communicate freely without masks on, we need to accept this as the new

normal, and without imparting our own feelings; make it an expectation. This summer, in our summer school, our students with special needs adapted to the new requirement, as their parents and teacher made it the norm.

#TuckahoeInThisTogether-Masks On!

Sincerely,

Dr. Amy Goodman
Superintendent

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