



# SYRACUSE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jaime Alicea, Superintendent of Schools

Health Services

Nancy Bailey, Director of Health Services

## SCSD Guidance on Use of Face Masks/Coverings & Mask Breaks

Staff, students and visitors must wear a school appropriate face covering when entering district buildings, walking in hallways, classrooms, or bathrooms and when in any shared areas, which includes classrooms.

The following guidelines must be adhered to by all individuals:

- All students and staff districtwide will wear a face covering;
- Masks are to cover over the mouth and nose;
- Some individuals may not be able to tolerate a face covering, including when such covering would impair their physical or mental health;
- Individuals with asthma **can** wear facemasks or face coverings; and
- Individuals or guardians of individuals who state their children cannot wear a facemask or face covering for any reason must provide documentation from their healthcare provider.

### **Mask Breaks**

We acknowledge that throughout the course of a day individuals may feel the need to take a break from their mask. Below are guidelines for “mask breaks”:

- If an individual is in an office or classroom by themselves, they may take their mask off.
- If a student is in a classroom and needs to have a break from wearing their facemask, they may remove their mask as long as they are at least physically distanced a minimum of 6 feet, seated at their desk and working quietly on an independent activity. We recommend that mask breaks are no more than five minutes.

At no time, should all students in a classroom have their masks off.

If there is a need for a large number of people to take a brief break, students must be physically distanced a minimum of 6 feet apart and that teachers attempt to stagger students, not to exceed >25% of students being without a mask at one time.

- Students may remove their mask to take a drink of water while at their desk.
- Mask breaks are NOT allowed while individuals are moving around the classroom or the building.
- Students may remove their mask at meals while seated and maintaining 6 feet of social distancing.

For health-compromised individuals, the District has additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) upon request and/or as needed, to promote healthy school environments.

### **PROPER STEPS IN USING A FACE MASK:**

1. Make sure your mask has been washed/laundered and is clean prior to wearing it.

2. Wash or sanitize your hands.
3. Put the face mask on. (It should fit securely around your ears, cover your nose and mouth).
4. While wearing the face mask, try not to touch it. If the mask needs to be adjusted, then wash or sanitize your hands before and after touching the mask.
5. When removing the mask, try not to touch your face with your hands or the outside of the mask.
6. If you are going to take your mask off for a short time period, have a designated paper or zip top bag that is clean to place your mask in. If you need to fold the mask, please make sure that the outside of the mask does not touch the inside area that goes against your face. Do not put the mask in your pocket or purse.
7. Practice hand hygiene after removing your mask.
8. Wash your face mask after every day of use if possible. Hand wash or wash on the gentle cycle with hot, soapy water. Allow the mask to air dry or dry on gentle cycle in dryer.

CDC Face Covering Information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

Workplace Guidance CDC:

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcommunity%2Forganizations%2Fworkplace-decision-tool.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcommunity%2Forganizations%2Fworkplace-decision-tool.html)