

On February 17, 2022 Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham announced she has lifted the requirement for face coverings to be worn in most indoor spaces, effective immediately. However, the decision on masking in schools will be left up to

## Face Mask Requirements

Revised per BOE Action (2/25/2022)

### MASK USE REQUIREMENTS

- EPS will CONTINUE required mask use for all students, staff and visitors during regular instructional time.
- Federal requirement for wearing a mask while on public transportation, including school buses, activity buses, and district transportation will remain in effect.
- Students and staff who are participating in **test to stay** are required to wear a mask during the five days of test to stay.
- Students and staff who are returning to school from a COVID infection after five days of self-isolation will be required to wear masks at school and at all school activities, from day six through day 10 to reduce the risk of COVID transmission. The day of symptom onset is day zero. If an individual is asymptomatic, the day of specimen collection for the positive COVID test is day zero.
- EPS will ENFORCE full mask use by everyone, in all areas for any school site as an Enhanced COVID Safe Practice (ECSP) for a 2 week period following a 5% or higher positivity rate as reported per our published [EPS COVID Positive Summary Report](#).

### MASK USE EXCEPTIONS

- EPS has removed masking requirement, making it OPTIONAL, for students, staff and visitors to wear masks while outdoors, including recess time.
- Students are not required to wear masks while taking resting/sleeping breaks; students must maintain social distance and be supervised by staff while resting.
- EPS has removed masking requirement for student athletes, making it OPTIONAL to wear a mask while participating in close contact, indoor sports (this also includes coaches and officials).

### VISITORS, ATHLETICS & SPONSORED EVENTS

- Visitors to a school, including visiting sports teams, will abide by the masking requirements of the school.
- All visitors, including students, staff and spectators will be required to wear masks while indoors.
- See exception above for student athletes, coaches and officials.

## Face Mask Criteria

Face masks must cover the mouth and nose and fit snugly against the sides of the face in order to contain respiratory droplets. **The types of allowable face masks include:**

1. [Face masks made of two or more layers of cloth.](#)
2. [Face masks with a clear plastic window.](#)
3. Surgical, procedural, [N95 or KN95 face masks](#) that are approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use by staff performing medical duties or similar close contact assignments.

**The following face coverings are NOT substitutes for face masks:**

- [Masks that have exhalation valves or vents](#)
- Mesh Face Masks
- [Bandanas](#)
- Scarves
- [Neck gaiters](#) (also known as a neck fleece)
- Face shields (see further discussion below)

## Mask Compliance

Schools should provide masks to those students who need them (including on buses), such as unvaccinated students who forgot to bring their mask or whose families are unable to afford them.

Espanola Public Schools has updated the enforcement matrix for students as attached. The updated Mask Requirements, Mask Criteria, Enforcement and Enforcement Matrix will be posted on the district website, and provided to all students and parents through email and posted as a Synergy notification.

If an unvaccinated adult refuses to wear a mask in the building, at an indoor school-sponsored event during school hours, or on school transportation, then the individual must leave. For unvaccinated staff members who refuse to wear a mask, HR policy will dictate disciplinary actions and whether the individual may choose to take leave when required to vacate the school building.

If a student removes the face mask and refuses to wear the mask, then the student will have to be picked up from school and taken home. While waiting for pick up, the student should be supervised and quarantined from other students.

## **Compliance Response**

**LEVEL 1 BEHAVIOR:** Initial refusal to comply with mask requirements.

**LEVEL 1 INTERVENTION:** In most cases the classroom teacher is responsible for Level One Interventions.

- 1.0. Pre-Intervention
  - Student is offered a mask.
  - Student is offered a mask break.
  - Classroom management system.
- 1.1. Student Warning
- 1.2. Student Conference
- 1.3. Parental Contact
- 1.4. Student Isolation/Quarantine
- 1.5. Referral to Level 2 Intervention  
(3 or more level 1 violations)

**LEVEL 2 BEHAVIOR:** Ongoing Refusal to cooperate with school personnel regarding mask requirements.

**LEVEL 2 INTERVENTION:** Referral for administrative support and intervention.

- 2.1. Referral to an in-school support service
  - Video to model how to wear a mask for explicit instruction (how to wear a mask, how to clean a mask, why it is important to wear a mask)
  - Presentation on why face masks are important and where we wear them on school grounds
  - PBIS incentives
  - District letter to parents explaining (words and visuals) the necessity of masks
  - Visuals created and displayed in all classrooms and around the school
  - Advisory support
  - Behavior Contract or Respect Agreement created with the whole class
  - Parent Communication
- 2.2. Detention
- 2.3. Exclusion from extracurricular activities
- 2.4. Referral to Level 3 Intervention  
(3 or more level 2 violations)

**LEVEL 3 BEHAVIOR:** Habitual/chronic refusal to cooperate with school personnel regarding mask requirements.

**LEVEL 3 INTERVENTION:** Referral for administrative support and intervention or alternative program placement.

- 3.1. Revision of Behavior Contract or Respect Agreement created with the whole class
- 3.2. Referral to alternative program placement or remote status. If an alternative or remote program is not available than applicable fees, payable by parents/guardians for remote services may apply.