

KWS Face Covering Policy

revised 8/19/20

The Kimberton Waldorf School's face covering policy reflects the latest information about face coverings and recent guidance and requirements for schools. It is a change from our earlier face covering policy. The Kimberton Waldorf School's face covering policy acknowledges the wide diversity of needs in the community and our social responsibility to protect one another. While there may be a variety of viewpoints and perspectives on face coverings, as a school we are a community. We are also part of a much larger community beyond ourselves, and we have an obligation to do what we can to protect one another and support our community's health and wellbeing. Our hope is that each one of us can see the necessity of supporting the whole, and doing our best to find a unified center.

- Since we drafted our Health and Safety Plan in June there have been more recommendations from public health officials that face masks are one of the effective tools in slowing the spread of Covid-19, including recommendations that children wear face masks in public settings. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends cloth face coverings for children over the age of two, and their recommendations state that "plans for the safe return of children to school, child care, and other group settings must include the universal use of cloth face coverings by children 2 years of age and older and the adults with whom they interact."
- On August 18, 2020 schools received a letter from the Pennsylvania Department Education informing schools that the Pennsylvania Department of Health was requiring that students in schools wear face coverings at all times even when 6 feet of physical spacing can be maintained. Students can remove face coverings for "eating and drinking when spaced at least 6 feet apart; or when wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task; or at least 6 feet apart during 'face-covering breaks' to last no longer than 10 minutes."
- Face masks are considered an effective tool to stop the spread of coronavirus since they protect the people around a person wearing a mask. They are considered more effective at protecting others than face shields.
- Because of the role that face masks play in reducing the spread of coronavirus KWS requires that all of our students and employees wear face masks. Students or employees who have a medical or mental health condition or a disability that precludes wearing a face mask in school must provide medical documentation. Parents are expected to provide clean face masks for their children.

Therefore:

- Students in all grades will wear face masks at all times, both indoors and outdoors, except for when eating and drinking and spaced 6 feet apart and during mask breaks when spaced 6 feet apart.
- Teachers will provide face mask breaks for students during classes. Mask breaks will be provided at least every 40 minutes. These breaks will happen outdoors when weather permits.
- Faculty and staff will be wearing face masks and will also be able to take regular face masks breaks.
- In Early Childhood, at both Rosebud and Kindergarten, face masks will be worn at all times, indoors and outdoors, except when eating and drinking and at rest time and teachers will model

for and guide the children to the best of their ability and as developmentally appropriate. Face mask breaks and an environment in which the children's well-being both physically and emotionally is addressed will be maintained.

- Visitors and parents must wear face masks on campus.

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/cloth-face-coverings/>

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Cloth-Face-Coverings-for-Children-During-COVID-19.aspx>

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/Waivers/MaskWearing/Pages/default.aspx>

Letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Education about new face covering requirements for schools set by the Pennsylvania Department of Health:

As you know, the health and safety of Pennsylvania's school communities is top priority, and the guidance we release to support and maintain the health and safety of school communities is rooted in science, data, and research. As more data and research becomes available, the information that becomes guidance must evolve – something we've shared with you since we began releasing reopening guidance.

Last week, the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\) released an update to their guidance](#) strongly recommending children age two and older should wear face coverings **at all times** to help mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Prior guidance we released in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) stated students in schools could remove their face coverings as long as six feet of social distancing could be maintained. Given this recent change from the AAP, and consistent with the [Secretary of Health's Face Covering Order issued on July 1, 2020](#), DOH is requiring **students wear face coverings at all times while in school**, even when six feet of social distancing can be achieved. There are limited exceptions.

[Visit our Answers to FAQs on Face Coverings/Masks webpage for more information.](#)

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