

STUDENT FACE COVERING REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECTRUM MIDDLE SCHOOL AND SPECTRUM HIGH SCHOOL



Per the Governor's Emergency Executive Order (20-81), all Minnesotans are required to wear a face covering in indoor businesses and indoor public settings, which includes public charter school buildings and transportation. The Executive Order also requires public schools to follow the guidance of the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

As a result, while on Spectrum transportation or in Spectrum facilities, all students are expected to wear a face covering that meets MDH requirements (see below).

1. All students are expected to wear a qualifying **face mask** that covers the entire nose and mouth and meets all MDH requirements (see below). If they do not have one, disposable masks will be provided on buses and at each building.
2. If a student is unable to wear a mask and qualifies under the exemptions below, than a qualifying face shield may be worn instead of the mask. A **face shield** must extend below the chin anteriorly, to the ears laterally, and there should be no exposed gap between the forehead and the shield's headpiece (see MDH requirements below).
3. If a student is unable to wear a mask or shield, they are expected to receive their education through full-time distance learning and may not attend in-person/on campus.
4. If a parent believes a student cannot wear a mask or a shield and they would still like them to attend in-person/on campus, they need to provide medical documentation to the COVID-19 Program Coordinator. The student may not attend school in-person/on campus until a plan has been developed and agreed upon to address the mask/shield and medical documentation.

Additional Notes

1. Spectrum will provide disposable face masks for any student who arrives to a bus or building without a face covering that meets MDH requirements.
2. Spectrum is working to ensure students have face covering breaks throughout the day when they are not required to wear the mask. This includes the exceptions noted in the MDH requirements below, when they are eating at lunch, outside breaks, and other creative options.

Minnesota Department of Health Face Covering Requirements

Types of allowable face coverings include:

- Paper or disposable mask
- Cloth face mask
- Scarf
- Bandanna
- Religious face covering

The covering needs to **cover the nose and mouth completely**, should not be overly tight or restrictive, and should feel comfortable to wear. A face covering is not meant to substitute for social distancing, but is especially important in situations when maintaining a 6-foot distance is not possible.

Face coverings should not be placed on anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance, or anyone who cannot tolerate a face covering due to a developmental, medical, or behavioral health condition.

A **face shield** (a clear plastic barrier that covers the face) allows visibility of facial expressions and lip movements for speech perception and may be used as an alternative to a face covering in the following situations:

- Among students in Kindergarten through grade 8, when wearing a face covering is problematic.
- By teachers (all grades), when wearing a face covering may impede the educational process.
- For staff, students, or visitors who cannot tolerate a face covering due to a developmental, medical, or behavioral health condition.
- For staff providing direct support student services, when a face covering impedes the service being provided.
- The face shield should **extend below the chin anteriorly, to the ears laterally, and there should be no exposed gap between the forehead and the shield's headpiece**. Staff, students, and other people present in the school building or in district offices may temporarily remove their face covering or face shield in the following situations:
 - When engaging in indoor physical activity (e.g., during recess, after school sports, or when exercising in a gym) where the level of exertion makes wearing a face covering difficult, and during classes or activities held outdoors. People participating in these activities should maintain 6 feet of distance while doing so to the extent feasible.
 - eating or drinking, but care should be taken to maintain as much space as possible between people, recognizing it is not always feasible to maintain 6 feet of distance from others.
 - During indoor practices or performances involving singing, acting, or playing musical instruments where face coverings cannot be worn or are impractical to wear while playing the instrument or participating in the activity. Because these activities often generate aerosols, performers should ideally maintain 12 feet or greater of physical distance from others while participating in the activity to the extent possible, and should replace their face covering as soon as the activity is completed.
 - Depending on the activity, face shields should also be considered as an alternative if 12 feet of social distancing cannot be consistently maintained. While teachers and students may temporarily remove their face coverings when public speaking (for example, in a debate or speech team competition or in an assembly), lecturing, or engaging in classroom instruction, face coverings should only be removed in such situations when 12 feet of distance from others can be consistently maintained.
- If a face covering would impede these activities, but 12 feet of social distancing cannot be consistently maintained (for example, due to classroom size), a face shield should be considered as an alternative.
- People who are entering the school building during the day may be required by school staff to briefly remove their face covering for the purposes of checking identification.
- Staff working alone in their offices, classrooms, vehicles, or other job locations who do not have any person-to-person interaction.
- Staff working in communal spaces (e.g. at desks or in cubicles) that have barriers such as plexiglass or cubicle walls between employees that are above face level.
- When communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing or has a disability, medical condition, or mental health condition that makes communication with a face covering difficult, provided that social distancing is maintained to the extent possible