

Face Masks and Compliance

According to the Guidance for K-12 School Administrators on the Use of Masks in Schools

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/cloth-face-cover.html>, updated 12/18/20, face shields are no longer an acceptable form of face coverings. **Only face masks will be allowed while on campus at COS.**

The only exceptions to the mandatory face mask requirements are as follows:

Any student who has a medical or mental condition or disability, with pertinent supporting medical information, and documented in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA.

Any staff member who has a medical or mental condition or disability, with pertinent supporting medical information, and documented in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Any student who does not have a valid excuse for not wearing a face mask and who refuses to wear a face mask upon request of a COS Administrator shall be subject to immediate exclusion from school and/or school district transportation. Should that student subsequently not wear a face mask and again refuses to wear a face covering upon request of a COS Administrator, such student shall be recommended to be transferred to a remote learning environment in order to protect the health and safety of staff and students in the school.

All student expectations regarding screening, mask compliance, hygiene practices and social distancing will be communicated to all families. Teachers and staff will monitor students for any non compliance of safety practices in the health and safety plan. Parents will be notified and a plan will be discussed in cases of non compliance. If the student qualifies for an exception, they should contact their case manager or building principal.

Masks will be allowed to be removed while eating or drinking and students should have a bag or container to place them in while not being worn.

Physical Distancing

While we recognize that there is a conflict between the community/relationship building that COS holds as important and the mandate for physical distancing, we again prioritize the health and safety of our community. COS will be continuing to prioritize small cohort groupings with limited contact to multiple staff members.

Physical distancing will be maintained as much as possible during the school day. In any circumstance where physical distancing can not be maintained amongst students or staff, strict adherence to required face masks and strict hygiene procedures will be in place. Desks should be placed 6 feet apart when feasible.

Indoor classroom spaces will be arranged so that any occupants will be seated with 6 feet between each occupant. Lines will be marked on the floor of each classroom for any need to line up the individuals in the classroom prior to movement to a new location. No more than the exact number of students who can be seated in the seats in the classroom will be permitted to enter any indoor learning space.

COS plans to also use outdoor learning spaces. Each space will be clearly defined with seating arranged to provide 6 feet of social distancing between individuals.

Educators and parents should consult their healthcare providers to assess risks associated with their or their children's return to school.