

Dear OSSD community,

We have had a great start to the year. Now that the dust is settling we wanted to share some information about facial coverings.

As you are aware, multi ply cloth masks are the preferable covering. They provide the most consistent protection. Masks with dirt, germs, and moisture build up will not protect appropriately.

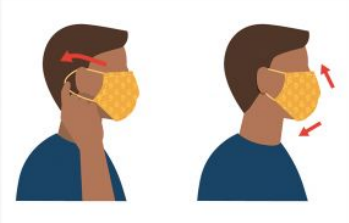
Gaiters are acceptable, but please look to make sure they are multi ply fabric and not 100% spandex and/or polyester. These fabrics do not wick germs appropriately.

Face shields and vented masks are not acceptable. They do not provide protection for the student wearing them or the people around them. Teachers may wear a face shield with specific students who need to see their mouth or if there is a medical reason, but only for those two reasons.

Facial covering should fit snug, but not tight. Here is a visual of fitting a mask:

Wear your Mask Correctly

- Wash your hands before putting on your mask
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily
- CDC does not recommend use of masks or cloth masks for source control if they have an exhalation valve or vent



If your student has a medical reason to not wear a mask please provide a note to your school nurse and they can discuss options and a plan with you.

Attached is a sheet about facial coverings. CDC also states the following-

Masks with Exhalation Valves or **Vents**

This type of **mask** does not prevent the person wearing the **mask** from transmitting COVID-19 to others. Therefore, CDC does not recommend using **masks** for source control if they have an exhalation valve or **vent**.

As always, please call or email your school nurse with any questions.

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