



# Santa Maria Joint Union High School District

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## Requirements for the Use of Face Coverings

On June 18, 2020 the California Department of Public Health issued "Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings" (attached). It updates the previous guidance issued in April to make the wearing of face coverings mandatory in most public situations.

It states that Californians must wear face coverings:

- Inside of, or in line to enter an indoor public space.
- Engaged in work, whether at the workplace or performing work off-site, when:
  - Interacting in-person with any member of the public;
  - Working in any space visited by members of the public, regardless of whether anyone from the public is present at the time;
  - Working in any space where food is prepared or packaged for sale or distribution to others;
  - Working in or walking through common areas, such as hallways, stairways, elevators, and parking facilities;
  - In any room or enclosed area where other people (except for members of the person's own household or residence) are present when unable to physically distance.
- While outdoors in public spaces when maintaining a physical distance of 6 feet from persons who are not members of the same household or residence is not feasible.

It specifically exempts:

- Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance. If you believe you may need an accommodation related to these new requirements, please contact Human Resources.
- Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
- Persons who are engaged in outdoor work or recreation such as swimming, walking, hiking, bicycling, or running, when alone or with household members, and when they are able to maintain a distance of at least six feet from others.

District employees are required to wear face coverings when:

- Interacting with any member of the public including children.
- Working in a space visited by the public whether or not a member of the public is present at the time.
- Working in a space where food is prepared, sold, or distributed.
- Entering, leaving, or walking through any of the public areas of our facilities including restrooms, lobbies, hallways, stairways, District and school site main offices, lounges and break rooms, or other public spaces.
- Working in any room or enclosed area with other people when physical distancing is not possible.
- Working in an outdoor public space where physical distancing is not possible.

Generally, you may work without a face covering when you are in an area not visited by members of the public, and you are able to physically distance from your co-workers. However, you must put on a mask if you are in an area which members of the public visit, if you interact with the public (including children), or if you walk through a public space listed above. Since children are members of the public, and they visit classrooms, masks must be worn in classrooms at all times, regardless of whether children or others are present.

Face coverings may be any of the following:

- Cloth coverings which cover the mouth and nose.
- Surgical face coverings which cover the mouth and nose
- Clear plastic face shields  
(N95 masks are not recommended as they restrict airflow)

Employees are permitted to use their own face coverings, so long as the face coverings meet the criteria above and are appropriate for a professional setting. The District will provide face coverings for employees who do not bring their own.

If you have any questions, please contact Human Resources.