KIBSD Face Mask Guidelines

Kodiak Island Borough School District facilities will require face masks be worn. Public health experts, both locally and nationally, emphasize the importance of mask use as a component of mitigating the spread of COVID-19. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), masks are a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the mask coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. This is called source control. COVID-19 can spread by people who do not have symptoms and do not know that they are infected. That’s why it’s important for everyone to wear masks in public settings and practice social distancing.

Based upon this guidance, Kodiak Island Borough School District has adopted the following mask requirement. All students and all employees will be required to wear face masks at all times in public areas and shared workspaces with limited exceptions. All visitors, volunteers and facility use participants will also be required to wear face masks in accordance with these guidelines. In both the green and yellow risk levels, all students PK-12 will be required to wear masks. The district understands that children in PK-1 will need additional time to build mask wearing tolerance and endurance. Consistent mask use provides us the best opportunity to keep in-person learning available to students and families. Staff are expected to model proper mask use throughout the school day. Details and exemptions are outlined below.

Face masks – refers to a cloth or paper face covering that will cover the wearer’s nose and mouth. Respirators/masks with an exhalation valve are not considered acceptable alternatives in compliance with this requirement. In addition, bandanas and gators will not be permitted. Face shields with a cloth or paper surround which covers the wearer’s chin and sides of the face are acceptable alternatives in compliance with this requirement.

All students and staff will receive a cloth mask at the beginning of the school year. Individuals will not be required to wear the District issued mask and can use a mask of their choosing as long as the mask covers the wearer’s nose and mouth, secures under the chin, fits snugly against the sides of the face and is free from words or insignia which are prohibited as outlined in your schools student handbook.

Information regarding how to safely wear, remove and clean cloth masks is available on the attached flyer. The more time students and staff spend in a mask the more effective this mitigation strategy will be at keeping schools open for in-person learning. In addition, to the attached the CDC recommends the following regarding masks at school.

- Individuals should refrain from touching their mask while wearing them and, if they do, they should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Staff should wash or sanitize hands before and after helping a student put on a mask.
- Masks should not be worn if they are wet.
- Masks should never be shared or swapped.
- Masks should be clearly identified with the wearer’s names or initials to avoid confusion or swapping.

**Mask wearing exemptions:**

- When alone in an office, classroom or individual workspace.
- When outside and social distancing standards are be maintained.
- When engaged in high intensity physical activity.
- When eating or drinking.
- When experiencing trouble breathing or are unconscious.
- When incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.
- Children younger than 2 years old.

Students who are unable to wear a mask because of an underlying health condition or other medical reason should submit medical documentation to the school nurse for review. Face shields may be an approved substitute for face masks in some situations. If face shields are approved for use without a mask, they should wrap around the sides of the wearer’s face and extend below the chin.

**Student Mask Non-Compliance:**

- Students who forget their mask will be provided with a mask for the day.
- Students who refuse to wear their mask in school, or students whose parents will not allow them to wear a mask based upon their family’s preference will be contacted by school administration to arrange for remote or home school learning.

**Examples of acceptable face masks:**

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Adopted from MSBSD