

# **ATTENTION!!!**

## **FACE MASK POLICY UPDATE**

The Lafayette County Public School Board of Education is mindful of the evolving need for emergency measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. In consideration of the recommendations issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Arkansas Department of Health, and the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Board adopted at its call meeting on **September 9, 2021**, this emergency policy for all students, employees, and visitors of Lafayette County Public Schools to become effective as of September 10, 2021.

**All students, grades K-12, staff, and visitors** must wear a face coverings while indoors or riding a bus when physical distancing of six feet is not possible or practical. This includes any time a student, employee, or visitor is on district property, on district-owned transportation, or at all district school-sponsored activities. All masks and face coverings must cover the nose and mouth.

The Lafayette County Public School Board of education shall require students, staff, and visitors to wear masks indoors (when six feet of social distancing cannot be ensured) and on school buses under the following conditions:

1. When the District is classified in **ACHI's purple category**, which indicates 100 or more new known infections per 10,000 residents in a 14-day window, or
2. When the district is classified in **ACHI's red category**, which indicates 50-99 new known infections per 10,000 residents in a 14-day window; and

The Lafayette County Public School Board of Education has identified the following exceptions to this requirement for students:

1. Students may be exempted from this requirement if it is not possible to wear face coverings due to medical conditions, disability impact, or other health or safety factors. Students with specific health conditions that require they not wear face covering must provide a physician's note to the school nurse.
2. Students may remove their face covering when eating, drinking, when directed to by a school employee, or when social distancing can be achieved as determined by a staff member.
3. Students may be exempted from this requirement for specific instructional needs such as recess, physical education activities, and extracurricular and athletic activities in accordance with Arkansas Activities Association guidance.
4. Students may be exempted from this requirement due to special behavioral or individualized needs as determined by the Director of Special Education or the Building Level Principals.
5. Students will be provided face-covering breaks during the day when social distancing can be accomplished.

The Lafayette County Public School Board of Education has identified the following exceptions to this requirement for staff:

1. Employees may use a clear face shield (provided by the district) in lieu of a face covering when building or district administration determines it a necessity for instructional purposes or when a face mask might impair an employee's vision and prevent him/her from safely performing job duties.
2. Employees may remove masks and face coverings for eating and drinking.
3. Employees may remove masks and face coverings when appropriate social distancing can be achieved (i.e. working in an office; or outside away from others).
4. Employees may be exempted from this requirement if it is not possible to wear face coverings due to specific medical conditions, disability impact, or other health or safety factors. A physician's note shall be provided to the employee's direct supervisor for this exception.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's principal or you may call the Central Office at ((870) 921-5500.