



McGuffey School District

90 McGuffey Drive
Claysville, Pennsylvania 15323

Dr. Erica L. Kolat
Superintendent
kolate@mcguffey.k12.pa.us

Amy L. Todd
Business Administrator
todda@mcguffey.k12.pa.us

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Re: Universal Face Coverings

What has been done to date

- Families have been asked the question, “Does your child have any restrictions that would prevent them from wearing a face covering in the hallways, on district provided transportation, or when they are less than six feet from other people?” on the return to school planning survey if they have selected the hybrid option. If they selected yes, the following was completed because we understood documentation could not be required initially.
 - If a student has an IEP, the IEP team discussed the request and made IEP revisions as appropriate.
 - We were prepared to begin revising 504 plans for students who currently have 504 plans. However, we did not begin that process due to the changes this week.
 - If a student does not have an IEP or 504 plan, a letter was sent to the family stating, in part, “As of today, the PA Department of Health (DOH) and the PA Department of Education (PDE) are not requiring documentation to be exempt from wearing face coverings. Your student will be exempted from wearing a face-covering based on your response to the survey, and you attesting the student meets at least one of the above five criteria. If the requirements from the DOH and/or PDE change, we will contact you.” This letter also invited families to contact our supervisor of special education to discuss if the student might benefit from further accommodations and may be eligible for a 504 plan.

Changed guidance from PDE

- Schools may now require medical documentation for a face covering exemption.
 - **PDE’s website: Must an individual provide evidence that they qualify for an exception to the Order?** Schools must require all students over 2 years of age to wear face coverings, except for any student who has a medical or mental health condition or disability that precludes the wearing of a face covering in school. Notwithstanding Section 3, Paragraph B of [Secretary Levine’s July 1, 2020 Order regarding face coverings](#), schools may require such students to provide medical documentation. PDE recommends that any documentation that is provided be in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA of such medical or mental health condition or disability.

Administration’s Recommendation

- IEP and 504 teams will determine on an individual basis the need for exemptions.
- For students who do not currently have an IEP or 504 Plan, require medical documentation to be exempt from wearing a face-covering effective September 15, 2020. (The delayed effective date is to provide notice to families and give them the opportunity to obtain the medical documentation.) Documentation will be reviewed through either the IEP or 504 process. Students who do not present documentation must wear a face covering.

Claysville—724-663-7772
Fax—724-663-4298

Joe Walker—724-222-3061
Fax—724-222-2630

Middle School—724-948-3323
Fax—724-948-2413

High School—724-948-3328
Fax—724-948-3344

Special Services —724-663-5364 Fax—724-663-3696

District Administration Offices 724-948-3731 Fax—724-948-3769