

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On July 17, 2020, the Utah Department of Health issued a State Public Health Order requiring all staff, and students to wear a face covering while in a school building, on school property or on a school bus. A “face covering” means a cloth mask that covers the nose and mouth without openings that can be seen through, a face shield, or similar covering that covers the nose and mouth.

Parents should plan now for their students to wear a face covering on the first day of school and every day thereafter until the order expires or changes. The District has purchased two cloth face coverings for each child so that they will always be available for wearing and washing. Please make sure the mask is washed and cleaned on a regular basis. It is our understanding that administration at some schools are working to distribute the face coverings prior to the start of school, while others will be passed out on the first day of classes. If you do not already have a face covering for your child to begin school on August 13, the District will provide a temporary one when students board the bus or when they arrive at the school building.

This extraordinary precaution was taken to protect the health of you, your family, and employees of the District. We recognize that some students may have a medical or health related condition that prohibits wearing a face covering. In such situations parents will need to consult with their healthcare provider and possibly seek alternative transportation or accommodations through an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or section 504 accommodation. The requirement for all students to wear a face covering will be in effect until December 31, 2020, or until otherwise modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the Utah Department of Health.

We encourage you to visit with your son or daughter now about the importance of wearing the face covering while riding the bus or as instructed at school. Your support and help is critical for success. If a child refuses to wear a face covering after schools have done all they can to help them understand the importance of this public health order, the student’s conduct will be treated as a safety violation and the child will be suspended from attending school until they are able to comply with the Health Department mandate. Again, your support is critical.

We have attached the entire COVID-19 School Manual to this letter. We hope it will help as you visit with your children about the importance of wearing face coverings, social distancing, using hand sanitizers, and our efforts to keep school buildings and our school buses clean. We look forward to working with you to make sure children feel safe and protected, and are looking forward to a return to in-person class and a great school year.

Please reference the following information: https://coronavirus-download.utah.gov/School/COVID-19_School_Manual_FINAL.pdf If you believe your child qualifies for an exemption, please contact the school for more information.

Thank you!

Washington County School District