

Buckeye Valley Local Schools

Guidelines for Mask (Face Covering) Exemption Approval

The Buckeye Valley School Board, under orders of the Ohio Department of Health, requires all students to wear face coverings (masks) when in a school building, bus and/or on school grounds. Students will wear a mask at all times unless on a teacher directed break or while outside, if six feet distance can be maintained. If a student cannot for health reasons wear a face covering (mask), in coordination with the district nurse, a parent/guardian will begin the process of exemption prior to returning to school without a face covering (mask). Medical exemptions must be completed by the student's health care provider and parent/guardian.

As outlined by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) examples of exemptions under the ruling are:

1. Children under the age of two years' old.
2. Any child unable to remove the face covering (mask) without assistance. (Parent/Guardian must complete Exemption Request).
3. A child with a significant behavioral/psychological issue undergoing treatment that is exacerbated specifically by the use of a facial covering (e.g. – severe anxiety or a tactile aversion). (Parent/Guardian must complete Exemption Request).
4. A child living with severe autism or with extreme developmental delay who may become agitated or anxious wearing a mask. (Parent/Guardian must complete Exemption Request)
5. A child with a facial deformity that causes airway obstruction. (Parent/Guardian must complete Exemption Request).

Additional considerations:

1. Individuals with asthma, COPD, or other respiratory disabilities may not be able to wear a face mask because of difficulty in or impaired breathing. (Parent/Guardian must complete Exemption Request).
6. A person who uses mouth control devices such as a sip and puff to operate a wheelchair or assistive technology, or uses their mouth or tongue to use assistive ventilators will be unable to wear a mask. (Parent/Guardian must complete Exemption Request).

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- Exemption Requests will be reviewed in coordination with the BVLS District Nurse, the building principal and the Delaware General Health District as applicable.
 - Parents/guardians will be notified via phone and/or email of the exemption outcome within two school days of receipt of written request for exemption.
 - Mask exemptions will be included as a Medical Alert on the students PowerSchool file.
 - Documentation of the Face Covering (mask) exemption will be included with the individual student's medical records.
 - **Exemption Requests must be completed and approved prior to the student's exemption from wearing a face covering (mask).**
 - The Exemption Request form is available on the Buckeye Valley District Website.