



Superintendent's Guidelines Regarding Use of Face Masks and Face Shields
Updated: October 14, 2021

The following guidelines have been developed pursuant to Board policy 8450.01, which provides that face masks and face shields shall be worn in accordance with the guidelines prepared and published by the Superintendent, and that such guidelines shall reflect local, state, and federal legal requirements and shall take into consideration guidance issued by local, state, and federal health authorities.

In light of revised federal and state health authority guidance regarding masking, physical distancing, and quarantining, the West Geauga Local School District will continue to require the wearing of masks or face shields at its indoor facilities from August 25, 2021 through January 7, 2022, maintaining a minimum of three (3) feet social distancing as recommended by the Ohio Department of Health and Geauga Public Health. Masks and/or face shields will not be required at the district's outdoor facilities but it is strongly recommended that individuals who are not fully vaccinated continue to follow federal, state, and local health authority guidance regarding masking and social distancing, including but not limited to CDC recommendations that in areas of substantial to high transmission such individuals wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated. Additionally, pursuant to the CDC transportation masking order, all individuals are required to wear a mask on public transportation, including school buses. The aforementioned changes to District requirements are intended to conform to local, state, and federal legal requirements, taking into consideration, local, state, and federal health authority guidance. Further, such changes are intended to reduce, to the extent possible, the need for students and staff members to be excluded from attending school and school-related activities due to incidents of exposure to individuals with Covid-19.

Like the School Restart Plan designed to reopen West Geauga's school buildings in August 2020, these Superintendent's Guidelines related to face masks represent a fluid document that is subject to change reflective of the recommendations of local, state, and federal experts. The need to relax or tighten these provisions will depend on a number of factors including community spread of the virus, vaccination rate in the community, medical expertise, recommendations of the state and local health departments, guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and any local, state, or federal mandates.