

## **Update to Statewide Health Order for Face Coverings in Schools**

Parents & Students: We are very excited to see students back in school next week! As you are aware, we return to school with a statewide health order for staff and students to wear face coverings. This order applies both to riding buses and being in schools. It also applies to anyone in gymnasiums attending programs or athletic events, and at outdoor events or games.

The statewide order was recently updated to include more specific information about the type of face coverings that are allowed. With the updated guidelines, face coverings should have the following features:

1. Cover the nose and mouth without openings that can be seen through
2. Secure under the chin
3. Fit snugly against the sides of the nose and the face.

With this updated definition, plastic face shields generally do not meet the requirements of a face covering for school. Face shields may still be used in certain circumstances during the school day as directed by school staff. Schools will provide face coverings. Students are also welcome to bring their own face coverings as long as they meet these standards and are in line with school dress codes.

The health order does allow for a variety of exceptions. If you feel your student qualifies for an exception based on health or disability, please submit a "Face Covering Information & Exemption" form (available on district or school websites) to your school office along with a medical directive from your health care provider (MD, DO, PA, or APRN) for the exemption. We encourage you to read the full attached health order to better understand the variety of exempted situations where students may not need to wear a face mask when at school.

We recognize this can be a challenging part of our return to school. We very much appreciate your cooperation with these statewide guidelines. The wearing of face coverings is intended to be a temporary risk mitigation measure while more permanent solutions to COVID-19 are developed.

Emery County School District