

# RUSD Face Covering Protocols/Scenarios

## RUSD School Reopening Guidance on Face Coverings:

Face coverings must be used in accordance with [CDPH Guidelines](#) unless a person is exempt as explained in the guidelines, particularly in indoor environments, on school buses, and areas where physical distancing alone is not sufficient to prevent disease transmission.

Age	Face Covering Requirement
Under 2 Years Old	No.
2 Years Old-2nd Grade	Strongly Encouraged.
3rd Grade-12th Grade/Transition	Yes, Unless Exempt.

Face coverings are strongly encouraged for young children between two years old and second grade, if they can be worn properly. A face shield is an acceptable alternative for children in this cohort who cannot wear them properly.

Persons younger than two years old, anyone who has trouble breathing, anyone who is unconscious or incapacitated, and anyone who is otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance are exempt from wearing a face covering.

If a student or staff member does not have a face covering, one will be provided to them.

In order to comply with this guidance, schools must exclude students from campus if they are not exempt from wearing a face covering under CDPH guidelines and refuse to wear one provided by the school. Schools should develop protocols to provide a face covering to students who inadvertently fail to bring a face covering to school to prevent unnecessary exclusions. Schools should offer alternative educational opportunities for students who are excluded from campus.

**What is a cloth face covering?** A cloth face covering is a material that covers the nose and mouth. It can be secured to the head with ties or straps or simply wrapped around the lower face. It can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton, silk, or linen. A cloth face covering may be factory-made or sewn by hand or can be improvised from household items such as scarfs, T-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels.

**Per [CDPH Guidelines](#), the following individuals are exempt from wearing a face covering:**

- Persons younger than two years old. These very young children must not wear a face covering because of the risk of suffocation.
- Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could

obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance.

- Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.

## **Scenarios:**

### **A student/parent in grades 3-12 refuses to wear a face covering.**

- RUSD has jurisdiction over its schools in terms of requiring the wearing of a face covering on its campuses in alignment with CDPH and state health and safety guidelines.
- If a student/parent refuses to wear a mask, they will be offered a face covering by the school site.
- If a student/parent refuses to wear the offered face covering, they will be reminded that they will be excluded from school if they do not wear a face covering. The types of face covering that are acceptable should be shared (see above).
- If no compromise can be reached regarding wearing a face covering, the student will be excluded from in person instruction and offered Rocklin Virtual Campus (RVC) or Rocklin Alternative Education Center to participate in long-term Independent Study (RAEC).
- If the parent is not present/unavailable, they will be contacted by the school and notified of the exclusion due to lack of face covering and asked to come pick up the student at the school. While waiting to be picked up, the non-face covered student should be physically distanced in the office from staff and other students.

### **A student/parent in grades 3-12 claims exemption from wearing a face covering due for religious reasons.**

- At this time, there is no legal precedent for a face covering exemption due to religious reasons.
- Engage in an interactive process with the parent to determine if there are alternative face coverings that could be used due to the religious reason such as face shield, scarf, etc.
- If no compromise can be reached regarding wearing a face covering, the student will be excluded from in person instruction and offered Rocklin Virtual Campus (RVC) or Rocklin Alternative Education Center (RAEC).

### **A student/parent in grades 3-12 claims exemption from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition.**

- Engage in an interactive process with the parent to determine if there are alternative face coverings that could be used due to the medical condition such as face shield, scarf, etc.
- If no alternative face covering can be identified, the parent will need to provide a [Medical Exemption for Face Covering](#) signed by their physician.
- Once the medical exemption is received and approved by the principal, the student may attend school without a face covering.

**A student/parent in grades 3-12 claims exemption from wearing a face covering due to a mental health condition and/or disability.**

- Engage in an interactive process with the parent to determine if there are alternative face coverings that could be used due to the disability/mental health condition such as face shield, scarf, etc.
- If no alternative face covering can be identified, the parent will need to provide a [Medical Exemption for Face Covering](#) signed by their physician.
- Once the medical exemption is received and approved by the principal, the student may attend school without a face covering.

**A student in grades 3-12 is clearly impacted by their disability and unable to wear a face covering.**

- If a student, due to their disability, is clearly unable to wear a face covering, the medical exemption process may be waived at the discretion of the Principal, Program Specialist, and Special Education Teacher.