



Board of Education Policy 5300 - CODE OF CONDUCT COVID-19 FACE COVERINGS ADDENDUM

Yonkers Public Schools (YPS) recognizes that wearing a face covering for the entire duration of the school day may present challenges to students and staff for various reasons. However, in order to keep the school community safe and healthy, YPS hereby mandates that all persons, including students of all ages, staff, and visitors, are required to wear a face covering on school grounds, with limited exceptions for certain activities such as meals, authorized face covering breaks, and individuals for whom wearing a face covering is medically contra-indicated or developmentally inappropriate. Acceptable face coverings include, but are not limited to, cloth-based face coverings (e.g., homemade sewn, quick cut, bandana) and surgical masks that cover both the mouth and nose. Face shields worn without other face coverings are not considered adequate protection and should not be used alone. Face coverings shall be worn correctly at all times, covering the individual's mouth as well as nose. Students will be encouraged and taught how to wear a face covering. Age-appropriate lessons, reminders, and positive reinforcement will be provided by staff to emphasize why individuals should wear a face covering at all times.

In accordance with the Yonkers Public Schools Re-Opening Plan: Appendix 1 Health and Safety (pp. 19 & 20):

1. All parents/guardians are required to provide students with a face covering, labeled with the student's name on it, on a daily basis. Disposable masks will be available and must be provided to students in cases where a parent did not furnish a suitable face covering.
2. All students and staff are expected to wear face coverings throughout the day, unless medically contra-indicated or, in the case of students, developmentally inappropriate.
3. Three (3) to four (4) face covering breaks will be instituted by the teacher or other building staff throughout the day, while students are social distancing.

The District, in keeping with restorative practices and progressive levels of intervention, will utilize a variety of responses to address those who may refuse to comply with this mandatory face covering protocol.

Refusals to Wear a Face Covering: Students

Students who forget to wear their face covering or who remove their face covering in the building will be addressed using Restorative Practices. Potential Restorative Queries or Circle Prompts include:

1. What happened that prevented you from wearing your mask/face covering?
2. What were you thinking when you took your mask/face covering off?
3. What have you thought about since then?
4. Who has been affected by not wearing your face covering? Potentially, in what way?
5. What do you think needs to be done to make things right?
6. What did you think when it was brought to your attention you weren't wearing your face covering?
7. What impact does not wearing a face covering have on you or potentially others?
8. What has been the hardest thing for you during...(COVID19, re-entry to school, etc.)?



A student who refuses to wear an appropriate face covering will be subject to intervention in accordance with the Yonkers Public Schools Code of Conduct (Revised and Adopted October 16, 2019) (pp. 24-44).

Refusals to Wear a Face Covering: Staff

School staff who do not consistently and/or appropriately wear a face covering shall be counseled by their direct supervisor to do so. Staff members who refuse to adhere to the face covering requirement on school grounds shall be subject to the penalties set forth in the Yonkers Public Schools Code of Conduct (Revised and Adopted October 16, 2019), Public Conduct on School Property, section B. Penalties (pp. 52-54).

Refusals to Wear a Face Covering: Visitors

Visitors to the school are expected to abide by the Code of Conduct including the expectations for Visitors to Schools and Public Conduct on School Property (50-54). Visitors who refuse to wear a face covering will be denied entry into the school. Visitors who remove their face covering while on school property will be reminded by school staff to adhere to the face covering requirement. Any visitor who fails to comply with a directive to wear a face covering and/or appropriately have both their mouth and nose covered by said face covering will be directed to leave the premises and shall be subject to the penalties set forth in the Yonkers Public Schools Code of Conduct (Revised and Adopted October 16, 2019), Public Conduct on School Property, section B. Penalties (pp. 52-54).

This Addendum to the Code of Conduct shall remain in effect until the Center for Disease Control, New York State Department of Health, New York State Education Department, Governor of the State of New York, Westchester County Executive, and Mayor of the City of Yonkers no longer deem face coverings necessary in a public setting, including schools, unless the Board in coordination with the Superintendent of Schools sooner modifies the addendum or extends its implementation in accordance with recommended guidelines in the best interests of the school community.

Adoption Date: October 21, 2020