



FACE COVERING POLICY

Purpose: To help slow the spread of COVID-19 while students and staff are on campus for in-person learning. Per a provision in the FY 2022 State of Arizona budget passed by the legislature and signed by the governor, LTCS will not require masks for the 2021-2022 school year. However, LTCS encourages students and staff to follow CDC guidelines regarding mask-wearing and be respectful of everyone's personal choice to wear a mask.

Policy: All students and staff are encouraged to wear a face covering while on campus.

Face Covering definition: Face coverings refer to a piece of material used to cover the nose and mouth. To be a face covering they must cover both the nose and mouth.

Face Covering Use:

- Masks should fit snugly over the nose and mouth. If the mask gapes open, it is not working effectively.
- Individuals who should not wear masks include children under the age of two, people who cannot remove a mask on their own, and people who have significant difficulty breathing related to a medical condition.
- Students and staff should refrain from touching and adjusting the mask as much as possible, and should wash or sanitize hands after touching or adjusting a mask.
- Face coverings should follow school dress code guidelines and should not be distracting to the educational process and climate of the school, offensive, or inappropriate for school.
- Masks with exhalation valves or vents allow respiratory droplets to reach others and potentially spread the virus. These masks should be avoided.
- Masks should be washed after each use.
- Masks should include multiple layers of fabric (usually natural fibers) while allowing for breathing without restriction. (You should not be able to blow a candle out when blowing through the mask.) Studies show that gaiter-type masks are usually ineffective

Additional Information: Face coverings should contain student and staff initials.
Students and staff may not share face coverings.
Additional disposable face coverings are available in the office for emergency use.

*LTCS recognizes that wearing cloth face coverings may not be possible in every situation or for some people. In some situations, wearing a cloth face covering may exacerbate a physical or mental health condition, lead to a medical emergency, or introduce significant safety concerns. Adaptations and alternatives should be considered whenever possible to increase the feasibility of wearing a cloth face covering or to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading if it is not possible to wear one.¹

¹ Revised July 20, 2021