



**Emery County School District**  
**Face Covering Information & Exemption Request**  
(Turn into School Office)

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student / Employee: \_\_\_\_\_

By State Public Health Order, all individuals, including employees, students, or visitors, shall wear a face covering while on school property or on a school bus. This face covering requirement is a temporary measure while we wait for a vaccine to be developed.

Exemptions are noted below:

**Exemptions requiring additional documentation & parent / guardian signature:**

- A. An individual with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. *If applying for this exemption, you are required to attach a medical directive verifying the need for this exemption.*
- B. An individual who has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 accommodation that would necessitate exempting the individual from wearing a face covering. *This exemption will be documented directly in the IEP or 504 plan.*

**Exemptions not requiring additional documentation:**

- C. A child who is younger than three years of age.
- D. A child who cannot have a face covering safely on their face.
- E. Maintaining a distance of at least six feet from any other individuals when outdoors.
- F. Maintaining a distance of at least six feet from any other individual when eating or drinking indoors.
- G. An individual who is receiving or providing a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary (example: speech therapy).
- H. An individual who is deaf or hard of hearing, or communicating with an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication, in which case a face shield or alternative protection should be used.
- I. An individual participating in a school sponsored activity or physical education class as long as the individual complies with Appendix C of the Utah Phased Guidelines.

By signing below, I am requesting an exemption under category (A) or (B) above and have attached the required documentation to this form.

Name of Employee or Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 if adequate social distancing is not possible.

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



STATE OF UTAH  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH  
84114-2220

GARY R. HERBERT  
GOVERNOR

SPENCER J. COX  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**For Immediate Release**

Contact:

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**State Issues Public Health Order Clarifying Requirements for Face Masks in Schools**

SALT LAKE CITY (Aug. 14, 2020) - The Utah Department of Health has issued a public health order clarifying the standards for face coverings in schools.

The order stipulates that every individual on school property, or on a school bus, must wear a face mask which covers the nose and mouth without openings that can be seen through, secures under the chin, and fits snugly against the sides of the nose and the face. Face masks must be worn, even when an individual is able to physical distance, except in very limited circumstances.

Face shields may only be worn without a face mask when the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication, including for an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing or while participating in speech therapy.

“Recent studies are showing that not all face coverings provide equal protection against COVID-19,” said Gov. Gary R. Herbert. “As we send our children back to school, we need to make sure that they are wearing face masks that actually reduce the spread of coronavirus in the air.”

View the full text of the public health order, the requirements for masks worn on school property and in school buses, [here](#).

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**State of Utah**

GARY R HERBERT  
*Governor*

SPENCER J. COX  
*Lieutenant Governor*

**Utah Department of Health  
Executive Director's Office**

Joseph K. Miner, M.D., M.S.P.H., F.A.C.P.M.  
*Executive Director*

Marc E. Babitz, M.D.  
*Deputy Director*

Nate Checketts  
*Deputy Director  
Director, Medicaid and Health Financing*

**STATE PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER**

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020, Governor Gary R. Herbert issued Executive Order 2020-1, declaring a state of emergency due to novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19);

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Donald J. Trump, President of the United States issued the Proclamation on Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is caused by a virus that spreads easily from person to person, may result in serious illness or death, and has been characterized by the World Health Organization as a worldwide pandemic;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 can spread between individuals in close proximity through respiratory droplets produced when an infected individual speaks, coughs, or sneezes;

WHEREAS, an infected individual can transmit COVID-19 even if the individual does not present symptoms or know that the individual is infected;

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Utah Department of Health have recommended the use of face masks or other face coverings to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, I have determined that it is appropriate to require individuals to wear face coverings while in a school or school bus to protect public health;

WHEREAS, recent data show a large increase in the transmission rate of COVID-19 in Utah, and the Utah State Epidemiologist announced that Utah is experiencing a dramatic rise in the spread of COVID-19 across Utah;

WHEREAS, under Utah Code §§ 26-1-30(3), (5), and (6), the Utah Department of Health has the power and duty to promote and protect the health and wellness of the people within the state; to control the causes of epidemic, infectious, communicable, and other diseases affecting the public health; and to prevent and control communicable, infectious, acute, chronic, or any

other disease or health hazard that the Department considers to be dangerous, important, or likely to affect the public health.

Based on the foregoing, in accordance with the authority vested in me as the Interim Executive Director of the Utah Department of Health by Utah Code §§ 26-1-10, 26-1-30, and 26-6-3, and being fully advised and finding the factual basis and legal requirements have been established;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Richard Saunders, Interim Executive Director of the Utah Department of Health, hereby order the following:

1. As used in this Order:
  - a. “Face mask” means a face covering that:
    - i. covers the nose and mouth without openings that can be seen through;
    - ii. is made of synthetic or natural fabrics;
    - iii. secures under the chin;
    - iv. fits snugly against the nose and sides of the face; and
    - v. does not have an exhalation valve or vent.
  - b. “Face shield” means a face covering that:
    - i. covers the entire face;
    - ii. protects the eyes of the wearer;
    - iii. is made of clear plastic or similar nonpermeable transparent material;
    - iv. secures around the top of the head;
    - v. does not secure under the chin;
    - vi. does not fit snugly against the nose or sides of the face; and
    - vii. can be used in conjunction with a mask for enhanced protection.
  - c. “School” means a local education entity or private school that provides any kindergarten through grade-12 program or service, including a residential treatment center that provides any kindergarten through grade-12 program or service.
  - d. “School bus” means a vehicle used for district- or school-provided transportation that transports a student to or from a school or a school-sponsored activity.
  - e. “School property” means any real property, including any building, structure, facility, or part thereof, that is owned, leased, occupied, or controlled by a school.
2. Each individual on school property or on a school bus shall wear a face mask, except as provided in Section (3).
3. Section (2) does not apply to:
  - a. an individual who is outdoors while maintaining a physical distance of at least six feet from any other individual who is not from the same household or residence;

- b. an individual who is eating or drinking while indoors and maintains a physical distance of at least six feet from any other individual who is not from the same household or residence;
  - c. a child who is younger than three years of age;
  - d. an individual with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face mask, including an individual with a medical condition for whom wearing a face mask could cause harm or dangerously obstruct breathing, or who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face mask without assistance;
  - e. an individual engaged in an activity where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication, including an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing while communicating with others, an individual who is communicating with an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing, or a teachers-student dyad participating in speech therapy, in which case the individual shall wear a face shield without a mask or use alternative protection, including a plexiglass or similar barrier;
  - f. an individual who has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. section 1414, or an accommodation under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. section 794, that would necessitate exempting the individual from wearing a face mask;
  - g. an individual who is receiving or providing a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face mask is necessary to perform the service; or
  - h. an individual participating in a school sponsored activity or physical education class as long as the individual complies with Appendix C of the Phased Guidelines for the General Public and Businesses to Maximize Public Health and Economic Reactivation.
4. A school may require an individual to provide a medical directive from a Doctor of Medicine (MD), Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO), Physician Assistant (PA), Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), documenting a need for an exemption under Subsection (3)(d).
  5. For an individual described in Subsection (3)(f), a local education agency shall document the accommodation in accordance with 34 CFR 104.33(a) as part of the student's IEP or Section 504 accommodation plan.
  6. This Order supersedes Utah Public Health Order 2020-10.

This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. December 31, 2020, unless otherwise modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded.

Made at 14 day of August, 2020.



**Richard G. Saunders**  
**Interim Executive Director**  
**Utah Department of Health**