

**FACE COVERINGS DURING PANDEMICS**

VUSD Face Covering Policy:

Following the CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings, VUSD has established the following Face Covering Policy during the current COVID-19 pandemic:

1. All staff and students are required to wear a face covering when in high risk situations: inside public spaces (offices and classrooms), interacting in-person with any member of the public, working or visiting the public, food preparation or distribution to others, working or walking in common areas, such as hallways, and any room or enclosed area where people, other than your own household are present and cannot physically distance.
2. Exempt from wearing face coverings are the following:
  - a) Younger than 2 years old
  - b) A person with trouble breathing/ medical condition, mental health condition or disability. This would include someone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or unable to remove a face covering without assistance
  - c) Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired and the mouth is essential for communication
  - d) Temporary removal of face covering for meals (place in a labelled bag and re-apply when meal finished)
3. VUSD will provide a re-useable cloth face covering for all employees and students. Disposable face coverings will be available for staff or students who inadvertently fail to bring their face covering to school.
4. Students and staff should be aware and/or reminded to not touch face covering; wash hands before and after putting on or taking off
5. Students will be excluded from school if they do not have a condition that exempts them from wearing a face covering and they choose not to wear one.
6. Cloth face coverings should be laundered after each use (at home).
7. Face shields are not a replacement for face cloths. Face shields may be an accommodation in limited situations, such as communicating with young children, special populations, or language development needs. If a face shield is used while in the classroom, the six feet social distancing must be maintained, as practicable. Staff must return to wearing a face covering outside of the classroom.
8. A face shield may be used as an alternative for young children, 2 years old to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, if unable to properly wear a face cloth.
9. The face shield should extend below the chin and around the ears for adequate protection. Staff may add a drape to the bottom of the face shield if desired.