

TO: WLA Stakeholders  
DA: July 23, 2020  
FR: Dr. Mortensen  
RE: **Governor Walz Executive Order on Face Masks**

Dear WLA Families, Staff Members and Stakeholders,

As you may already be aware of, Governor Tim Walz signed an executive order requiring Minnesotans to wear a face covering in all public indoor spaces and indoor businesses beginning Saturday, July 25, 2020 to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Accordingly, when students do return to WLA, face coverings will be required for all students (in grades K-8), all staff and anyone present at WLA. The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is also requiring all kindergarteners, even those under the age of five, to wear a face covering.

Types of allowable face coverings include:

- Paper or disposable mask
- Cloth face mask
- Scarf
- Religious face covering

The covering should cover the nose and mouth completely, should not be overly tight or restrictive and should feel comfortable to wear. Bandannas are not allowed due to the WLA dress code policy. Also of special note, a face mask is not a substitute for social distancing, but it is especially important in situations when maintaining a six-foot distance is not possible.

Quicklinks:

- [Face covering requirements](#)
- [Face covering frequently asked questions](#)
- [COVID-19 sports guidance](#)
- [Masking requirements for child care](#)

Face coverings may be temporarily removed by students, staff and other people present in the school building in the following situations:

- Indoor physical activity where the level of activity (exertion) makes wearing a face covering difficult as long as social distancing is being followed.
- Pre-kindergarten students age five years and younger should refer to masking requirements for child care provided by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).
- Face coverings may be temporarily removed to eat or drink, but care should be taken to maintain as much space as possible between people.

- When communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing or has a disability, medical condition or mental health condition that makes communication with a face covering difficult, provided social distancing is maintained.

Finally, a reminder that WLA will be honoring the choices that families make in this unusual time. Some of our families are ready to come back on-site full-time, or in a hybrid model (alternating days), while other families prefer to remain fully on-line in our blended program until the COVID-19 pandemic situation stabilizes. **For parents/guardians, there will be more information coming out next week, on how to choose whichever program delivery model works best for your family, and is within the Governor's mandate.**

Thank you~

Dr. Mortensen