



Office of the Superintendent
Billings Public Schools
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BPS Face Covering Guidelines and Requirements

Effective August 22, 2021, until further notice

The following guidelines will be followed in all Billings Public Schools facilities.

While indoors and while on any BPS transportation (First Student or other):

- Face coverings are required for all students, staff and volunteers or guests, regardless of vaccination status.
- Face coverings are not required when outdoors.
- Face coverings are not required while eating/drinking.
- In some circumstances, staff may lower face covering while teaching, presenting, speaking or providing directions as long as they can maintain appropriate distance (6ft) from others. This decision will be left to the discretion of the individual staff member. However, face coverings should be used when working with small groups or individual students.
- When working alone, not with students or not with members of the public, staff may remove face coverings.
- To be determined by Staff, there may be opportunities for students for routine “mask breaks” throughout the day, if appropriate distancing can be maintained.
- For details regarding face coverings (types and proper use), BPS follows the CDC guidance titled: [“Your Guide to Masks.”](#)

These guidelines will remain in effect until further notice and will be routinely reviewed. These guidelines may be modified, reduced, or extended. These are consistent with the guidelines Missoula County Public Schools are using.

Rationale:

As provided by MT Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the CDC and MCCHD.

- Children younger than 12 years do not have the opportunity to be vaccinated, and will not likely have this opportunity until late fall/early winter.
- The Delta variant of this virus has now been detected in Montana, and this variant has been found to be much more contagious as well as even cause mild disease in vaccinated people. Cases and hospitalizations are increasing from earlier this month, and the Delta variant is rapidly becoming the predominant variant in Montana.

