

<u>Section:</u>  <b>General School Administration</b>	<b>Knox County Board of Education Policy</b>		
	Descriptor Term:  <b>Face Coverings</b>	Descriptor Code:	Issued:
		<b>C-240</b>	<b>8/20</b>
		Reviewed:	Revised:

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The Knox County Board of Education is mindful of the evolving need for emergency measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. In consideration of the recommendations issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Tennessee Department of Health and the Knox County Department of Health, the Board is adopting an emergency policy for all students, employees, and visitors of Knox County Schools. <sup>1</sup>

Face coverings are essential in preventing/reducing the spread of COVID-19. Face coverings are to be worn by staff, students, and visitors, with the exceptions listed below, while inside school buildings.

Until further action of the Board, or at the discretion of the Superintendent to open in green mode under the COVID re-opening plan, all students in kindergarten through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade, employees and visitors, shall be required to wear a mask or face covering (a) while attending school or a school function in any school building, and (b) when riding school-provided transportation. All masks and face coverings must cover the nose and mouth of the student, employee, and visitor.

Students, employees, and visitors shall wear masks or face coverings at all times except for the following:

1. Students, employees, and visitors may remove masks or face coverings for eating and drinking;
2. Students, employees, and visitors may be exempted from this policy by the school principal due to a documented medical condition; and students with health, behavioral, or other disability concerns, as noted in his or her IEP or 504 plan(s), will be addressed on an individual basis and afforded all protections and safeguards under federal and state law;
3. Students, employees, and visitors may remove masks or face coverings on a case-by-case basis for specific instructional needs and other activities (such as, when 6 feet distancing can be maintained, outdoor recess and/or other appropriately distanced activities), as determined by the principal in consultation with the teacher, and permission will not be unreasonably withheld, in which case the teacher will utilize appropriate social distancing measures; and
4. Students, employees, and visitors may be exempted from this policy due to special behavioral or individualized needs as determined by the school principal.

It is the intent and directive of the Knox County Board of Education to teach and reinforce use of masks or face coverings as long as schools remain open in yellow or red modes during the threat of COVID-19. Incentive based approaches to correcting behavior is encouraged and preferred.

In the absence of an exception, students who **refuse** to wear a mask or face covering inside a Knox County School facility shall have the following consequences:

- (1) Verbal Warning

- 1 (2) 2<sup>nd</sup> offense verbal warning
- 2 (3) Quarantine from general population
- 3 (4) Parent pick up
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5 In the absence of an exception, employees who **refuse** to wear a mask or face covering inside a Knox  
 6 County School Facility:

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- 8 • Shall be subject to Board Policies in general, including but not limited to, B-230 and G-130.
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10 Visitors shall wear face coverings at all times. Those who refuse may be removed from the building.

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38 Legal Reference:

- 39 1. Tennessee Governor Bill Lee Executive Order 55 (July 31, 2020)
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41 Cross Reference:

42 Knox County Board of Education Policies J-190 and J-191.

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47 Approved as to Legal Form 8/6/2020  
 48 By Knox County Law Department  
 49 /Gary T. Dupler/Deputy Law Director

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