



Policy Regarding Face Coverings

UPDATE 7/01/21

This update supersedes all previous versions of the facial coverings policy.

In compliance with state law, including Laws 2021, Chapter 404, the FY 2022 K-12 Budget Reconciliation Bill, masks are not mandatory but are optional for both scholars and staff as of 1 July 2021 for the 2021 - 2022 school year.

Heritage Academy continues to maintain mitigation measures such as washing hands with soap and warm water; using hand sanitizer; cleaning and maintaining health facilities; and staying home when sick.

UPDATE 4/20/21

On 19 April 2021 Governor Ducey removed the requirement for facial coverings at schools. This decision will now be left to the local schools. Each Principal will communicate the changes for our schools. While facial covering may or may not be required at your campus, Heritage will continue to provide other mitigation strategies such as: washing hands with soap and warm water; using hand sanitizer; cleaning and maintaining health facilities; and staying home when sick.

USING FACIAL COVERINGS AT SCHOOL

The Executive Order 2020-51 issued on 30 June 2021 by Arizona Governor Doug Ducey requires schools to “develop and implement a policy to require face coverings, such as face masks or face shields, for all staff and students.”

In general, anyone entering a Heritage Academy facility must wear a face covering. Per #5 in the executive order (2020-51), a face covering may include a face mask or face shield. N95 masks are not required, but allowed.



Visitors will be limited on campus. For school business, please call or email questions to the front office. Visitors must wear a facial covering.

The covering must be worn in all hallways, public spaces and common areas, as well as office spaces where multiple people are present if physical distancing of six feet is not possible. In the classroom where desks or tables are spread apart or are arranged where all scholars are facing forward, facial coverings are optional. The terms “public spaces” and “common areas” include classrooms, hallways, restrooms, elevators, stairwells, and other gathering areas. Coverings are required outdoors if safe physical distancing and gathering practices are not possible.

Face coverings such as cloth face masks, surgical coverings, and plastic face shields (collectively, “coverings”) can limit the spread of germs. The purpose of wearing a covering is to contain your coughs and sneezes, preventing you from spreading your germs to other people and nearby surfaces.

Heritage recognizes the importance for our faculty and scholars to have a sufficient oxygen supply to ensure good health and well being. Wearing a facial covering should be fitted to ensure proper flow of sufficient oxygen.

Coverings are a supplement to—not a substitute for—other preventive measures. They are intended as an added layer of protection on top of social distancing and other common sense protections, like frequent handwashing, use of hand sanitizer, working and conducting other activities remotely, and staying home when sick or experiencing common symptoms of coronavirus.

If Heritage employees want to use their own N95 covering or another non-N95 respirator, Heritage requires that such respirator use does not, in itself, create a hazard. Employees who voluntarily use their own N95s or other non-N95 respirators are required to read and adhere to the OSHA standard for PPE when use of a respirator is not required.

PRECAUTIONS

As a precaution, you should not use a face mask or covering if it will be hazardous to you or someone else. For example, the CDC recommends that cloth face coverings not be worn by children under age 2, used on anyone who has trouble breathing, or used on anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the covering without assistance. If you have questions about your own personal health situation, please contact the Heritage



Coronavirus point of contact (CPOC) at your local school. The CPOC for each school is the Assistant Principal. The Principal is also a resource should the Assistant Principal not be available.

See additional information at ["Feasibility and Adaptations" on the Center for Disease Control's website.](#)

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS

Any student wishing to request a disability-related accommodation in connection with Heritage's facial covering policy should contact the CPOC. Any employee wishing to request a disability-related accommodation in connection with Heritage's covering policy should contact Jennifer Whitmire at jwhitmire@heritageacademyaz.com.

Individuals with physical, mental, or health-related conditions, and individuals who are hearing or speaking impaired and for whom a mask or face covering is an obstacle to communication, may be exempted from the covering policy.

If you have a personal health condition or a disability that prohibits the wearing of a covering as described in this policy and where no other form of personal protective face covering or equipment is suitable based on your health condition, please contact the school CPOC to discuss your situation and receive an exemption.

COMPLIANCE

All members of the school community are expected to comply with this policy during all applicable phases of the Plan.

Heritage offers a broad range of courses, programs, and events which may have particular needs with respect to face coverings and other personal protective equipment. Faculty, program, and events staff reserve the right to modify or impose more stringent covering and personal protective equipment policies and other safety precautions if needed to facilitate safe participation in special types of classes, or other course-related activities, programs, and events.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a fluid situation. This and other Heritage COVID-19 policies are subject to change at any time in Heritage's sole discretion and/or consistent with updates and changes in recommendations and requirements from the CDC and other governmental authorities.

