



## Face Covering Student Exemption Protocol

In order to provide the safest environment possible for our students and staff, Gilbert Public Schools will enforce the proclamation set forth by the Maricopa County Department of Health, requiring face coverings for all students in first grade and older. Students younger than first grade may wear a face covering at their parents' discretion.

We do recognize that some students cannot safely wear a face covering due to:

- A physical disability that prohibits the student from putting on and taking off their own face coverings.
- A cognitive disability that prohibits the student from putting on and taking off their own face coverings due to the inability to follow directions.

These students are not required to wear face coverings nor will they need to have an exemption form completed.

For all other students, face coverings are required on campus and on school buses. Students will be given opportunities for face covering breaks during the school day including:

- Recess and any free time outdoors
- At mealtimes
- During physical education classes based on the activity

Every effort will be made to create a natural learning environment while also allowing students and staff to interact in a safe manner.

In accordance with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health, we have created a Face Covering Exemption for students who are not physically or cognitively disabled but do have a medical or behavioral diagnosis that does not allow them to effectively wear a face covering.

This exemption form will be provided by the school health office staff to parents/guardians upon request.

Once the exemption form is filled out and signed by a Licensed Healthcare Provider, it will be retained in the student's health folder. A copy of the exemption form will be retained by the campus administrator and necessary staff will be made aware of students with current exemptions in order to prevent disruptions to daily routines.