



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Katie Nilges
Director of Governmental Affairs

DATE: August 3, 2021

RE: Frequently Asked Questions – Face Masks

The purpose of this memo is to answer frequently asked questions related to the [July 6, 2021 memo](#) and Proviso 1.108.

Is a district allowed enforce a face mask requirement on school buses?

Yes. While the state will not be enforcing a face mask requirement on school buses, individual districts may choose to do so. Proviso 1.108 only covers educational facilities and does not extend to school buses.

Is a district allowed to require visitors to wear a face mask?

Yes. Proviso 1.108 only speaks to the prohibition of a face mask mandate for students and staff. Because the proviso is silent to visitors, districts may choose to enforce such a policy.

Is a district allowed to require students and staff to wear a face mask in the nurse's station and other healthcare areas of the school facility?

Face coverings may be required by students, staff, and visitors in healthcare areas of school facilities. Locations designated for healthcare, testing, or for awaiting pickup due to illness are considered healthcare facilities. Examples include health rooms and athletic trainer offices. As such, infection control policies and practices are held to healthcare facility standards and expectations and may differ from policies of non-healthcare school facilities. Individuals being assessed, tested, or dismissed from attendance due to respiratory symptoms should be required to wear a face covering while in these designated healthcare areas and also when transiting to/from these areas.

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Is a district allowed to encourage face masks in its educational facilities?

Yes. While districts are prohibited from requiring students and staff from wearing a face mask, Proviso 1.108 does not prevent a district from encouraging the wearing of a face mask.

Please contact Katie Nilges at knilges@ed.sc.gov with any questions.