



**Erie County Health Department**  
*An Accredited Public Health Department*

**Erie County Community Health Center**  
*A Federally Qualified Health Center*

**Peter T. Schade, MPH, RS**  
*Health Commissioner*



Erie County School District Superintendents,

As we prepare for Erie County School Districts to return to a 5-day school week, we would like to remind you of the **Director's Order Requiring the Use of Facial Coverings in Child Education Settings**, which allows for facial covering exemptions for individuals that meet certain criteria.

"Please remember that the requirement to wear a facial covering does not apply when:

- The individual has a medical condition including respiratory conditions that restricts breathing, mental health conditions, or a disability that contraindicates the wearing of a facial covering; or
- The individual is communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired or has another disability, where an accommodation is appropriate or necessary;
- The individual is actively participating in outdoor recess and/or physical activity where students are able to maintain a distance of six feet or more or athletic practice, scrimmage, or competition that is permitted under a separate Department of Health Order;
- The individual is seated and actively consuming food or beverage;
- Where students and staff can maintain distancing of at least six feet and removal of facial covering is necessary for instructional purposes, including instruction in foreign language, English language for non-native speakers, and other subjects where wearing a facial covering would prohibit participation in normal classroom activities, such as playing an instrument;
- Students are able to maintain a distance of six feet or more and a mask break is deemed necessary by the educator supervising the educational setting;
- The individual is alone in an enclosed space, such as an office, or
- When an established sincerely held religious requirement exists that does not permit a facial covering."

At this time, the Ohio Department of Health has not placed any restrictions on the type of healthcare provider that can write a medical exemption regarding wearing a facial covering in school.

**All students or staff members not wearing a mask in the school setting, who are determined to meet CDC criteria for close contact to a case of COVID-19 will be placed on a mandatory home quarantine for 14 days from exposure in order to protect our community. This is essential to reduce the spread of this virus.**

Thank you for your cooperation.

Peter T. Schade, MPH, RS  
Health Commissioner  
Erie County Health Department

**Board of Health:** Linda Miller-Moore (Board President); Michael D. Kaufman, Esq. (President Pro-Tem); Richard R. Keller, MD; Marsha D. Cooper, MD; Richard Bulan; Julie Foster; Joey Supina; Dina C. Bauer, DPM; Leroy E. Sizemore; Charles M. Murray; Lawrence O. Leaman