Colorado’s Governor signed Executive Order D 2020 138, a mandatory statewide mask order, that went into effect on July 16, 2020. As a result of this order, and in consultation with El Paso County Public Health, District 11 mandates all employees, students and visitors over the age of 2 wear a mask at all times while in all district buildings, with the exceptions outlined by the Executive Order and further explained below.

What constitutes a mask?
Masks and face coverings are used interchangeably and are personal protective equipment (PPE) used to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Masks must cover the face and nose made of tightknit cloth fabric, fit snugly but comfortable against the side of the face, can be cleaned or disposed of after use, and in good repair. It is recommended that masks have multiple layers and reusable masks should be laundered on a daily basis.

What constitutes a face shield?
Face shields are a form of PPE that is commonly made of clear plastic and designed to protect the user’s eyes. Limited research shows it may protect the user from large droplets often present after someone sneezes or coughs in the user’s direction.

Can students and staff wear a face shield instead of a mask?
In general, no. Face shields are not a replacement for a mask but can be worn in conjunction with a mask for increased protection. Face shields may also be worn by those that cannot medically tolerate a face covering (medical exemptions should be presented to your supervisor or principal). Other situations may allow for the use of face shields in lieu of a mask, but staff and families should consult their supervisor or principal before taking such action on their own.

How to put on and take off your mask safely?
D11 has created a video to help all of us use a mask properly:
https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/755a39cc-4ec6-4bac-8273-5280a2f10ac7

Who does not have to wear a mask?
The following are situations were masks should not be worn:

- Children 2 and younger
- Students napping/sleeping as part of their educational plans
- Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance
- Students whose disability prevents them from consistent compliance with mask-wearing
- Any staff or student who cannot medically tolerate a face covering*

*A medical statement from a physician must be provided to a staff member’s supervisor and a student should present documentation to a principal if there are medical circumstances that prevent them from wearing a mask.
COVID-19
Questions & Answers About Mask Use

When can staff and students remove their masks while at a school or district building?

In alignment with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s guidance on masks, the following situations allow for the removal of a mask:

• While eating*
• While outside during designated mask breaks*
• While staff are alone in their office or classroom with the door closed**†

* staff and students must social distance to a minimum of 6 feet if in the presence of someone else.
** if someone else enters the room you must put your mask back on.
† if the office or classroom is used for instruction, conducting meetings, or used as a common space the room must be cleaned prior to taking the mask off and allowing someone to enter after your mask has been off.

Can visitors enter without a mask?

At this time, visitors cannot enter any district building without wearing a mask unless they are under the age of 2. Staff should work to accommodate the needs of families and visitors should they not be able to enter a building because they cannot wear a mask. Schools have extra disposable masks they can provide to visitors should they not have one.

Additional resources on wearing a mask can be found here: