

File: EBCFA - FACE COVERINGS

The Greenfield Public School District is committed to providing a safe environment as schools reopen during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to public health experts, one of the best ways to stop the spread of coronavirus and to keep members of our school community safe is the use of face masks or face coverings. Therefore, in accordance with guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), the following requirements are in place until further notice for all staff and students per the guidance revised by the DESE on May 17, 2021 and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association issued on May 17, 2021. The School Committee will abide these guidelines and charge the Superintendent to keep the administrative guidelines current and distributed to stakeholders.

A face covering that covers the nose and mouth must be worn by all individuals in school buildings, on school grounds and on school transportation, even when physical distancing is observed. Based on guidance from health authorities, neck gaiters, open-chin triangle bandanas and face covering containing valves, mesh materials or holes of any kind will not be considered appropriate masks.

Individuals may be excused from the requirement for the following list of reasons, per CDC guidance:

The individual:

- has trouble breathing;
- is unconscious;
- is incapacitated;
- cannot remove the mask or face covering without assistance.

In addition, masks or face coverings will not be required for anyone who has a medical, behavioral or other challenge making it unsafe to wear a face mask or face covering. A written note from a physician is required for a requested exemption. Parents may not excuse their child from the face mask requirement by signing a waiver.

Additionally, face masks or face coverings will not be required when appropriate physical distancing is enforced:

- during mask breaks (2 times per day, outside the building, weather permitting);
- while eating or drinking;
- for students only, while outside (recess, physical education, youth sports, and outdoor learning environments) per the DESE guidelines, published May 17, 2021;
- for athletes on spring teams in active play outdoors, on the bench/dugout, indoors at low-risk sports where 14 feet or more of distance are consistently maintained between each participant (per MIAA guidelines, published May 17, 2021);
- spectators, chaperones, coaches, staff, referees, umpires/other officials who can meet the district's 6-foot distancing guidelines outdoors only (per MIAA guidelines, published May 17, 2021).

Adults must continue to wear masks outdoors if distancing cannot be maintained, per the May 17, 2021 DESE guidelines. Visitors, spectators, volunteers, and staff must wear masks indoors during athletic events per the May 17, 2021 MIAA guidelines.

Additional requirements per the *Guidance for Courses Requiring Additional Safety Considerations* issued by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in March, 2021 are as follows.

For chorus, singing, musical theater:

- **If outdoors, with masks encouraged if possible**, these activities can occur with at least 10 feet of distance between individuals.
- **If indoors, with masks required**, these activities can occur with at least 10 feet of distance between individuals if in-person school is occurring
- **Note: These activities cannot occur indoors without a mask.**

For using brass or woodwind instruments:

- **If outdoors, with masks encouraged if possible**, these activities can occur with at least 10 feet of distance between individuals.
- **If indoors, with masks encouraged if possible**, these activities can occur with 10 feet of distance between individuals if in-person school is occurring.

For non-musical theater:

- **If outdoors, with masks encouraged if possible**, these activities can occur with 6 feet of distance between individuals.
- **If indoors, with masks required**, these activities can occur with 6 feet of distance between individuals.
- **Note: These activities cannot occur indoors without a mask.**

For physical education activities and dance:

- **If outdoors, without masks**, these activities can occur with 6 feet of distance between individuals.
- **If outdoors, with masks required**, these activities can occur with 6 feet of distance between individuals.
- **If indoors, with masks required**, these activities can occur with 6 feet of distance between individuals.
- **Note: These activities cannot occur indoors without a mask.**

Exceptions to this policy under certain circumstances, such as for students with medical, behavioral or other challenges who are unable to wear masks, must be approved by the building

principal in consultation with the school nurse or local Board of Health. Face shields or physical barriers may provide an alternative in some instances.

A student's mask or face covering is to be provided by the student's family. Staff members are responsible for providing their own face coverings. However, the district will supply disposable face covering for individuals who arrive at a building, or board school transportation, without one. The district will also supply N-95 masks (or KN-94 or KN-95 masks if N-95 are not available) to all educators upon request.

If students are in violation of this policy, the building principal will consult with the parent/guardians to determine whether an exception is appropriate, or the student may be removed from the school building for in-person learning until such time as they can comply with the requirement or the requirement is lifted.

Violations of this policy by staff will be handled in the same manner as other violations of School Committee policy.

Visitors in violation of this policy will be denied entry to the school/district facility.

This policy will remain in place until rescinded by the School Committee.

LEGAL REF.: Commonwealth of Massachusetts, COVID-19 Order No. 31 -

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/may-1-2020-masks-and-face-coverings/download>

REFS.: Center for Disease Control and Prevention - Considerations for Wearing Masks -

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education - Reopening Guidelines - <http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/>

Commonwealth of Massachusetts - Mask Up MA! -

<https://www.mass.gov/news/mask-up-ma>

SOURCE: MASC - August 2020

Amended by Guidance from the DESE: March, 2021

Approved by the Greenfield School Committee: March 10, 2021

Amended by the Greenfield School Committee: March 25, 2021, May 21, 2021