

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 issued by the DESE on March 9, 2021.

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;
- in 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:

- teachers/staff will provide students with regular mask breaks throughout the day outside (weather permitting) with proper social distancing (6 feet);
- while eating or drinking.

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 10 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.

- Schools will have disposable masks available as needed to students and staff, however, families will be expected to provide face coverings for their children. 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>

RESOURCES:

How to Wear a Face Covering Video: <https://youtu.be/HtUJPizQVPI>

Short Video for Elementary Students about wearing masks (3 minutes):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4I7Sy2gTBIE>

CDC Face Masks Link: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html?deliveryName=USCDC_2067-DM25135

Poster on Safely Wearing Face Masks (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/cloth-face-covering.pdf>

How to Help your Child Adapt to Wearing a Mask:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hmwoA-HtIfOi2eEQfHgqxbBulXyFx7juKy4RLAjr9Ps/edit?usp=sharing>

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