

USE OF MASKS BY STUDENTS AND STAFF POLICY

Mask wearing by students, staff, visitors, and volunteers within school buildings and on school grounds will be optional, effective February 16, 2022.

Optional mask wearing applies to school related activities occurring after school and during evenings and weekends.

Transportation

Mask wearing on school buses and vans will be optional.

Interscholastic Athletics

For indoor interscholastic athletics conducted in the Merrimack School District, mask wearing is optional. No masking is required for outdoor sports conducted in the Merrimack School District.

Physical Education

Mask wearing during indoor physical education classes will be optional.

Masking During Chorus/Singing in Classroom

Mask wearing will be optional for students and staff during chorus or singing in class.

Other

Staff (including contracted service providers) who chose to wear a mask and work with students who are deaf or hearing impaired, students learning to read and students who rely on lip reading shall wear clear masks or visors/clear face shields which enhance service provision.

If the number of positive COVID cases (staff and students) in an individual school is 5% (or greater) of the total number of staff and students in the building, masks will be required for all staff and students while in the school building”.

No masks will be required while students and/or staff are outside or while eating lunch/snack.

If the percentage of positive cases (staff and students) in the individual school is below 5% for two consecutive weeks, the optional mask policy will be reinstated.

No student or staff shall be required to wear a mask if their disability or a medical condition permits them from doing such. In such cases, documentation of the disability, or medical condition will be required, and in such cases, alternative precautions will be sought in order to achieve the same or similar safety benefits.

USE OF MASKS BY STUDENTS AND STAFF POLICYDuration

This policy will be enforced as of February 16, 2022. It will be reviewed and possibly modified on a monthly basis upon analysis of Merrimack COVID data in relation to the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NHDHHS) Matrix and criteria on levels of community transmissions. Outbreaks or multiple clusters within a school/school district, as defined by New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services or a change in the NHDHHS-defined level of community transmission for Merrimack may result in a change to this policy.

Legal References

NH RSA 194:3, VIII, Powers of Districts, available at:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/194/194-3.htm>

NH RSA 194-C:4, II(j), Superintendent Services, available at:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/194-C/194-C-4.htm>

NH RSA 200:39, Exclusion from School, available at:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/200/200-39.htm>

Emergency Order #2020-04, available at:

<https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/documents/2020-04.pdf>

Emergency Order #2020-15, available at:

<https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/documents/executive-order-2020-5.pdf>

1st Reading: July 28, 2020

2nd Review: August 10, 2020

3rd Review: August 19, 2020

Approved: August 19, 2020

Rescinded: October 18, 2021

Policy Amendment #1

1st Reading: September 20, 2021

2nd Review: October 4, 2021

3rd Review: October 18, 2021

Approved: October 18, 2021

Rescinded: February 15, 2022

Policy Amendment #2

Approved: February 15, 2022

Rescinded: March 7, 2022

Policy Amendment #3

Approved March 7, 2022