

USE OF MASKS BY STUDENTS AND STAFF POLICY

General Requirements

All staff shall wear medical masks or cloth face coverings at all times when in school buildings and District offices at all times during the school day.

Classes shall be configured so that when possible, educators may be able to have a socially distanced location in the room for general instruction.

All visitors on campus shall be required to wear a mask upon entry to any school building and will be required to wear their mask at all times throughout their stay in any school building or District office.

No person, including a student, shall be required to wear a mask if their disability or a medical condition prevents 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.

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

The District shall endeavor to maintain a supply of masks for students and staff who do not have access to a mask or cloth face covering.

New Hampshire State Department of Health and Human Service guidelines on masks and cloth face coverings shall be made available to all staff. Masks shall not be required during outdoor recess, outdoor physical education and designated mask breaks provided social distancing is in place.

Pre-Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade

- All students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade shall be required to wear a mask or face covering at all times and in all locations throughout the designated school day except during designated mask breaks. This includes when on a school bus or other student transportation; when entering or exiting a school building or District office; when in corridors for any reason or transitioning from class to class; and in such other settings and environments as the District deems appropriate based on evolving data.

USE OF MASKS BY STUDENTS AND STAFF POLICY (continued)

Any student who is deemed by school staff to present a risk of contagion or a health hazard to themselves or others by virtue of not wearing a mask shall be removed from the classroom setting or not permitted to enter the classroom setting and the parents shall be required to pick up their child. See NH RSA 200:39.

Any student in the circumstances listed above who is not wearing a mask shall be asked to wear a mask. Any student who is not wearing a mask or is wearing a mask in an improper fashion shall be asked to don a mask or to wear their mask properly, which is, safely covering both mouth and nose. Any student who refuses to do such shall be deemed a health hazard to themselves and others, shall be removed from the school building, their parent/guardian shall be contacted and required to take their child unless and until such time as they are willing to comply with the face mask or cloth covering requirement. See NH RSA 200:39.

Duration

This policy will be enacted in cases of wide-spread health concerns as defined by New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. It will remain in place until the warning is lifted, or the Board determines that there is no longer a substantial risk that unmasked persons will present a hazard to themselves or others in the school setting, whichever event is the latter. The Board shall review this policy regularly to determine whether it remains appropriate.

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>

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