

FACE COVERINGS POLICY - A-170

The Northborough Southborough Regional School District is committed to providing a safe environment ~~as schools reopen in schools~~ during the ongoing 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.~~ Maintaining a safe environment is critical to the District's ability to ensure students remain in a full-time classroom learning environment.

A face covering ~~that covers the nose and mouth~~ must be properly worn by all individuals in school buildings, ~~on school grounds~~, and on school transportation, ~~even when social distancing is observed~~. Masks are required for all students PreK-12 and all District employees. Visitors in violation of this policy will be denied entry to the school/district facility.

~~Individuals may be excused from the requirement per CDC guidance.~~ A written note from a physician is required for a requested exemption. The request for exemption will be reviewed for approval by the District Wellness Coordinator and Nurse Leader and District Physician.

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

- ~~during mask breaks;~~
- while eating or drinking;
- ~~during physical education classes when outside and distancing is maintained per district and/or state guidelines.~~
- while outdoors

A student's mask or face covering is to be provided by the student's family, although a supply of surgical masks will be on-site at each school for students who need them. The district will supply masks for all staff members. The district will provide guidelines and requirements regarding the quality and type of masks required and retains the right to maintain these standards and to verify compliance.

If students are in violation of this policy, the building principal will consult with the parent(s)/guardian(s) to determine whether an exception/exemption is appropriate, if additional education is needed, accommodations need to be made, or if the student will 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.

When the Average Student Daily Attendance exceeds 92% over a three-week period, the Superintendent will:

1. Convene the Medical Advisory Team to review the data.
2. Consult with the local Board of Health Director or Agent for their approval.
3. And make a recommendation to the School Committee to lift the face covering requirement.

Should the Average Student Daily Attendance fall below 92% over a one-week period, or if other unforeseen circumstances warrant, the Superintendent will:

1. Convene the Medical Advisory Team to review the data.

- [2. Consult with the local Board of Health Director or Agent for their approval.](#)
- [3. Make a decision to reinstate the face covering requirement until the school committee convenes.](#)
- [4. Make a recommendation to the school committee at the next meeting.](#)
- [5. Ask the school committee to vote on the decision](#)

[During the absence of the face mask requirement, the District will adhere to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education \(DESE\) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health \(DPH\) guidelines regarding face coverings.](#)

~~For more information regarding the guideline please see the link provided below. Guidelines are subject to change.~~

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~~[Guidelines—Mask/Face Covering Protocol for Students v3.82620](#)~~

[Procedure for Face Covering Policy Data Review \[linked to doc\]](#)