

## **MASKS/FACE COVERINGS**

Wrentham 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 masks or face coverings. Therefore, in accordance with guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), the following requirements are in place until further notice.

A mask/face covering that covers the nose and mouth must be worn by all individuals age 2 (two) and older in school buildings and on school transportation. Students' families will provide students with masks/face coverings. Staff members may use their own masks/face coverings or those provided by the school district.

The masks/face coverings can be disposable or reusable and will need to:

- fully cover the nose and mouth and secure under the chin
- be made with at least 2 layers of breathable material
- fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face, and be secured with ties or ear loops.

Based on guidance from health authorities, neck gaiters, open-chin triangle bandanas and face covering containing valves, mesh material or holes of any kind will not be considered appropriate masks. If a staff member or student does not have a mask, they will be provided with a mask by the school district.

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/face coverings will not be required for anyone who has a medical or behavioral challenge making it unsafe to wear a face mask or face covering. A written note from a physician is required for a requested exemption.

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

- during mask breaks
- while eating or drinking
- during physical education classes
- while outside

If students are in violation of this policy, the building principal will consult with the parent/guardians to determine whether an exception is appropriate. The student may be removed from the school building 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.: EEC's Health and Safety Guidance During Covid-19 Recovery for Child Care Providers: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/eecs-health-and-safety-guidance-during-covid-19-recovery-for-child-care-providers>

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – Reopening Guidelines - <http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/>;  
<https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/2021-0825mask-requirement.pdf>  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts – Mask Up MA! –  
<https://www.mass.gov/news/mask-up-ma>

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