

GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SPECIAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

6:00 p.m.

Greenfield High School Cafeteria – 21 Barr Avenue

Everyone will be required to wear a mask and maintain social distancing.

AGENDA

I. Roll call/Call to order

II. Public Comment

Per School Committee Policy BEDH, Public Comment will be governed by the following rules:

1. At the start of each regularly scheduled School Committee meeting, individuals will sign in for an opportunity to speak during public comment. The public comment segment shall not exceed 15 minutes. All speakers are encouraged to present their remarks in a respectful manner. The presiding Chair may permit extension of this time limit by an additional 15 minutes, in extenuating circumstances.
2. Speakers will be allowed up to three (3) minutes to present their material and must begin their comments by stating their name and city/town. The presiding Chair may permit extension of this time limit, in extenuating circumstances.
3. Topics for discussion should be limited to those items within the School Committee's scope of authority. The authority of the School Committee primarily concerns the review and approval of the budget of the district's public schools, the performance of the Superintendent, and the educational goals and policies of the district's public schools. Comments and complaints regarding school personnel (apart from the Superintendent) or students are generally prohibited unless those comments and complaints concern matters within the scope of School Committee authority.
4. The Chair of the meeting, after a warning, reserves the right to terminate speech which is not constitutionally protected because it constitutes true threats that are likely to provoke a violent reaction and cause a breach of the peace, or incitement to imminent lawless conduct, or contains obscenities.
5. Written comments longer than three (3) minutes may be presented to the presiding Chair before or after the meeting. All remarks will be addressed through the Chair of the meeting. Comments made during the public comment portion of the meeting do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the Greenfield School Committee.
6. Sign up instructions will be provided for those who wish to participate in Public Comment.

III. Face Covering Policy Discussion

IV. FY23 Budget Public Hearing

IV. New Business

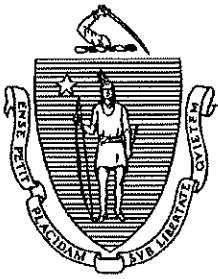
V. Adjournment

Other Platforms at which you can view the meetings. These include:	
GCTV's Website	http://gctv.org/
GCTV's YouTube Page	https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqOw-sfq2fj22HzKFQQHNNKehsUr2Suak
GCTV's Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/GreenfieldCTV/

To subscribe to GPS updates, go to <https://www.gpsk12.org/> and click **SUBSCRIBE** in the center of the page.

Revised 2.22.2022 11:00 a.m.

Posted 2.22.2022 8:45 a.m.



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendents, Charter School Leaders, Assistant Superintendents,
Collaborative Leaders, and Leaders of Approved Special Education Schools
From: Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner
Date: February 9, 2022
Subject: Update on DESE Mask Requirement

After consulting with medical experts and state health officials, the Commissioner will not renew the state mask requirement after it expires on February 28, 2022. Effective Monday, February 28, the DESE mask requirement will be lifted statewide. The Commonwealth's high vaccination rates and widespread availability of COVID-19 testing for school personnel and students support this decision.

Masking continues to be required on all school buses, per federal order.

DESE and DPH strongly recommend students and staff continue to follow the [DESE-DPH Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios](#).

As always, any individual who wishes to continue to mask, including those who face higher risk from COVID-19, should be supported in that choice. DESE and DPH strongly recommend unvaccinated individuals should continue to wear masks in school settings.

The Commissioner will continue to monitor public health data, consult with medical experts and state health officials, and issue further guidance and/or requirements as needed.

More than 40 schools have already received approval from DESE to remove the mask requirement. With the removal of the statewide mask requirement, additional schools no longer need to apply.

DESE continues to recommend that districts and schools adopt a layered approach to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in school settings. DESE and DPH continue to strongly urge all eligible individuals to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and booster and continue to support schools with vaccination clinics. Other mitigations include participating in the statewide COVID-19 testing program, maintaining good hand hygiene practices, and staying home when sick.



Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of
Elementary and Secondary Education



Margret R. Cooke
Acting Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Public Health

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Charter School Leaders, Assistant Superintendents,
Collaborative Leaders, Leaders of Approved Special Education Schools

FROM: Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner, Department of Elementary and Secondary
Education
Margret R. Cooke, Acting Commissioner, Department of Public Health

SUBJECT: DESE/DPH Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios - SY 2021-22

DATE: August 13, 2021, updated January 31, 2022

Introduction

On July 30th, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Department of Public Health (DPH) released a joint memo on COVID-19 Guidance for Districts and Schools – Fall 2021. As outlined in the memo, all schools are required to be in-person, full-time, five days a week for the 2021-22 school year, and all previously released DESE health and safety requirements are lifted. In addition to outlining recommendations for school and district policies on masking, the memo also previewed new COVID-19 testing and quarantine response protocols for schools.

This document outlines the testing and quarantine response protocols for SY 2021-22. Districts and schools also received information about how to sign up for this school year's statewide COVID-19 testing program.. Districts may continue to sign up throughout the school year if they are not yet participating.

As outlined on DESE's updated COVID-19 testing program web page, **DESE and DPH released updated testing program guidance on January 18, 2022. Under this guidance, districts and schools may select a new option within the testing program to provide weekly at-home rapid antigen tests to students and staff and discontinue contact tracing and the Test and Stay protocol.** This option is available to districts and schools so long as they are participating in the symptomatic and/or pooled testing components of the statewide testing program. DESE and DPH recommend that districts select this new option, and if they choose to implement it, they must notify their local board of health. Districts and schools that choose to maintain Test and Stay will continue contact tracing and will not be eligible to receive rapid antigen at-home tests.

As a reminder, **routine** pooled testing was implemented during the 2020-2021 school year as a mitigation strategy which involves combining several individuals' test samples together into one "pool" and then testing the pooled sample for COVID-19. This approach increases the number of individuals that can be tested at one time and allows for regular testing in the school community for COVID-19. The full pooled testing guidance can be found at <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/testing/>.

Symptomatic testing is also available to districts and schools for all individuals (including vaccinated, unvaccinated, and those who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days) that present COVID-19 symptoms at school or on the bus as outlined in this guidance. Training for school health staff on BinaxNOW for this purpose can be found on the [BU SHIELD website](#).

Across all other testing program components (pooled testing, weekly at-home rapid antigen tests, and Test and Stay), individuals should not participate if they have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days.

DESE and DPH continue to strongly recommend that all faculty, staff, and eligible students receive the COVID-19 vaccine and booster. For schools that are interested in setting up vaccine clinics on campus with a DPH-approved mobile vaccination provider, including clinic staff and vaccination administrators, free of charge, please fill out a request via the [online form](#).

In addition to recommending COVID-19 vaccination, it continues to be essential that the educational and public health communities, as well as cities and towns, work together to ensure as many children and adults as possible receive flu vaccines. This will reduce the number of students who need to stay home due to illness.

Please contact the DESE Rapid Response Help Center at 781-338-3500 with any questions. Districts and schools must contact the Help Center for guidance if they are experiencing a high volume of cases. Notification should also be provided to local boards of health and district leadership.

Section 1: Key definitions

This section outlines the list of COVID-19 symptoms, provides the definition of a close contact, and outlines situations where close contacts are exempt from COVID-19 testing and quarantine response protocols including isolation, quarantine, and Test and Stay.

COVID-19 symptoms

Below is the full list of symptoms for which caregivers should monitor their children, and staff should monitor themselves.¹

At this time, based on the advice of public health officials and medical experts, DESE and DPH are revising the symptoms list to align with DPH statewide guidance. While previous guidance provided a differentiated symptoms list for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, the new symptoms list below applies to all individuals, regardless of vaccination status. Individuals who experience any symptoms on the list below should follow the testing and quarantine response protocol for symptomatic individuals (Protocol C) as outlined in Section 2 of this document. Please note that, consistent with the DPH Public Health Advisory Regarding COVID-19 Testing, these protocols have been adjusted to recommend, but not require, a COVID-19 test to return to school.

COVID-19 symptoms list:

- Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Sore throat, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Headache *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Fatigue, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) *when in combination with other symptoms*

Definition of a close contact

Close contacts are defined as individuals who have been within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

individual while indoors, for at least 15 minutes during a 24-hour period.^{2 3} Please note that the at-risk exposure time begins 48 hours prior to symptom onset (or time of positive test if asymptomatic) and continues until the time the COVID-19 positive individual is isolated.

In general, close contacts should follow the testing and quarantine response protocols in Section 2 of this document. **However, certain close contacts are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols as noted below.**

Close contacts who are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols

The following close contacts are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols:

- **Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated⁴ close contacts:** Individuals who are asymptomatic and fully vaccinated are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- **Classroom close contacts:** An individual who is exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual in the classroom while both individuals were masked, so long as the individuals were spaced at least 3 feet apart, is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- **Bus close contacts:** Individuals on buses must be masked according to federal requirements. As such, individuals who are masked on buses when windows are open are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- **Close contacts who have had COVID-19 within the past 90 days:** An individual who has been previously diagnosed with COVID-19 and then becomes a close contact of someone with COVID-19 is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols if:
 - The exposure occurred within 90 days of the onset of their own illness AND
 - The exposed individual is recovered and remains without COVID-19 symptoms.

Section 2: Recommended testing and quarantine response protocols

This section outlines testing and quarantine response protocols for individuals – students and staff – who test positive for COVID-19, close contacts who are not exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols, and symptomatic individuals. Each scenario outlines the duration of any recommended quarantine or isolation, the conditions to be met in order for the individual to return to school, and any additional considerations.

² Note: To be a close contact, the 15 minutes must occur within a 24-hour period. Multiple brief or transitory interactions (less than a minute) throughout the day are unlikely to result in 15 minutes of cumulative contact and do not meet the definition of close contact.

³ CDC definition of Close Contact. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html>.

⁴ At this time, fully vaccinated is defined as two-weeks following the completion of the Pfizer or Moderna series or two-weeks following a single dose of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.

Overview of Protocol Categories:

- Protocol A: For individuals who test positive for COVID-19
- Protocol B: Protocol for asymptomatic close contacts
- Protocol C: Protocol for symptomatic individuals

Protocol A: For individuals who test positive for COVID-19

Protocol A for individuals who test positive

- **Duration:** Self-isolation for COVID-19 positive cases is a minimum of 5 days after symptom onset or after positive PCR or antigen test, if asymptomatic.
- **Return to school:** After 5 days⁵ and once they have:
 - Been without fever for 24 hours (and without taking fever-reducing medications)
 - Experienced improvement in other symptoms.
 - Following the 5-day isolation period, individuals must mask for 5 additional days when around others, other than when eating, drinking, or outside.
- **Note:** Return to school should be based on time and symptom resolution. Testing during isolation to return to school is not required.

Protocol B: Protocol for asymptomatic close contacts

Protocol B* (New Version) for Districts and Schools that Selected the New Testing Option to Provide At-home Rapid Antigen Tests

Updated testing guidance from DESE and DPH recommend that districts select the new option within the statewide testing program to offer weekly rapid at-home antigen tests to students and staff and discontinue contact tracing and Test and Stay programs. As such, for districts selecting this new option, individuals will no longer be identified as close contacts by school health professionals.

However, individuals may still be identified as close contacts outside of school settings (e.g. as a close contact of someone who tests positive for COVID-19 in their household). In these cases:

- While in school settings (including for sports and extracurriculars), asymptomatic vaccinated⁶ individuals remain exempt from testing and quarantine protocols. If an asymptomatic, vaccinated individual is identified as a close contact outside of school,

⁵ If an individual tests positive as part of a group pooled test, the 5-day isolation period (Day 0) begins the day the positive group pooled test was collected.

⁶ At this time, fully vaccinated is defined as two-weeks following the completion of the Pfizer or Moderna series or two-weeks following a single dose of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.

they may return to school. Individuals should closely monitor for symptoms and follow Protocol C if they experience symptoms listed in Section 1.

- **Unvaccinated individuals** who are identified as close contacts outside of school settings should stay home and follow Protocol B* below prior to returning to school:

Protocol B* (New Version): Protocol for asymptomatic, unvaccinated individuals identified as close contacts outside of school settings

- **Duration:** Quarantine is at least 5 days from the date of exposure
- **Return to School:** After 5 days, returning on day 6, provided that they:
 - Remain asymptomatic,
 - Adhere to strict mask use, other than when eating, drinking, or outside, and conduct active monitoring for symptoms through day 10; and,
 - Self-isolate if symptoms develop.
- **Note:** If an individual has symptoms at the time they are designated as a close contact or within the 5 days following initial exposure, they should follow the protocol for symptomatic individuals (Protocol C). If an individual tests positive at any time, they follow the protocol for individuals who test positive for COVID-19 (Protocol A). For all those exposed, best practice would also include a viral test (antigen or PCR) for COVID-19 at day 5 after exposure. An antigen test may be self-administered and does not need to be proctored or performed by a healthcare professional.

Protocol B (Legacy Version) for Districts and Schools Choosing to Maintain Contact Tracing and Test and Stay

Only schools and districts that choose to maintain contact tracing and the Test and Stay program should follow the guidelines in Protocol B (Legacy Version) below. Please recall that all asymptomatic, fully vaccinated individuals are exempt from close contact testing and quarantine response protocols and therefore do not need to follow Protocol B. However, fully vaccinated individuals are expected to monitor for symptoms, stay home and get tested if they experience symptoms, in alignment with Protocol C.

Protocol B (Legacy Version) for asymptomatic close contacts who are not exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols

Districts who choose to maintain contact tracing and are participating in the statewide COVID-19 testing program or another similar testing program are encouraged to utilize the Test and Stay (B-1) protocol option to minimize the amount of time individuals are out of

school. This testing and quarantine response protocol has been shown to be generally equivalent to quarantine for school-based contacts, and a safe alternative to at-home isolation.⁷

Individuals who are part of the Test and Stay protocol may be eligible to participate in school sports and extracurricular activities, provided that they are in compliance with the applicable protocol. For events and sports that take place on non-school days, testing will still be required on those days to participate.

As part of Test and Stay, quarantine is still strongly recommended for individuals outside of school settings.

Protocol B-1: Test and Stay

- **Duration of Test and Stay:** 5 days from the date of exposure
- **Return to School:** Close contacts can remain in school and do not have to quarantine, as long as they:
 - Are asymptomatic
 - Wear masks in school at all times, other than when eating, drinking, or outside. When these individuals cannot be masked (i.e., when eating or drinking) they should maintain 3 feet of distance from other individuals to the extent feasible.
 - Take a rapid antigen test (e.g., BinaxNOW) on each school day and receive a negative result. When the 5 days from date of exposure includes weekends or holidays, individuals should quarantine on weekends, and if they remain asymptomatic, upon return to school be tested immediately. If the individual remains negative, they can stay in school.
 - Conduct active monitoring for symptoms through day 10, and self-isolate at home if symptoms develop.
- **Note:** If an individual has symptoms at the time they are designated as a close contact or develops symptoms during the Test and Stay period or the 10 days following initial exposure, they should follow the protocol for symptomatic individuals (Protocol C). If an individual tests positive at any time, they should follow the protocol for individuals who test positive for COVID-19 (Protocol A).

Protocol B-2: Traditional protocol (if school does not have access to rapid daily testing or family or adult individual chooses not to participate in Test and Stay)

- **Duration:** Quarantine is at least 5 days from the date of exposure
- **Return to School:** After 5 days, returning on day 6, provided that they:
 - Remain asymptomatic;

⁷ Bernadette C Young, David W Byre, Saroj Kendrick, Chris White, Sylvester Smith, et. al. "A cluster randomized trial of the impact of a policy of daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 cases on attendance and COVID-19 transmission in English secondary schools and colleges." (July 2021). medRxiv. Available at: <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.07.23.21260992v1>

- Adhere to strict mask use, other than when eating, drinking, or outside, and conduct active monitoring for symptoms through day 10; and,
 - Self-isolate if symptoms develop.
- **Note:** If an individual has symptoms at the time they are designated as a close contact or within the 5 days following initial exposure, they follow the protocol for symptomatic individuals (Protocol C). If an individual tests positive at any time, they follow the protocol for individuals who test positive for COVID-19 (Protocol A). For all those exposed, best practice would also include an antigen or PCR test for COVID-19 at day 5 after exposure. An antigen test may be self-administered and does not need to be proctored or performed by a healthcare professional.

Protocol C: Protocol for symptomatic individuals

Protocol C applies to vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals who experience the COVID-19 symptoms listed in Section 1 and who have not tested positive for COVID-19.

Protocol C for symptomatic individuals: Return to school post-symptoms with optional test⁸

- **Duration:** Dependent on symptom resolution
- **Return to School:** Individuals may return to school after they:
 - Have improvement in symptoms
 - Have been without fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.
 - It is also recommended that individuals receive a negative PCR or antigen test result for COVID-19. An antigen test may be self-administered and does not need to be proctored or performed by a healthcare professional. Note: So long as the individual is not a close contact, if a medical professional makes an alternative diagnosis for the COVID-19-like symptoms, the individual may use this recommendation (e.g., for influenza or strep pharyngitis) in lieu of a PCR test or antigen test.
- **Please note:** If an individual has mild symptoms, the individual may be considered for testing using BinaxNOW, if available.
 - If the result is positive, they should be sent home and follow Protocol A.
 - If the result is negative, they should remain in school.

⁸ Please note that, consistent with the DPH Public Health Advisory Regarding COVID-19 Testing, these protocols have been adjusted to recommend, but not require, a COVID-19 test to return to school.

- If the minimal symptom(s) persist, the individual may be re-tested within the subsequent 3 days. If symptoms worsen, the individual should seek medical care and be evaluated for the need for PCR testing.

Section 3: Routine COVID pooled testing protocols

Routine COVID pooled testing involves combining several test samples together and then testing the group sample with a PCR test for detection of COVID-19. Testing for all consenting students and staff members will typically take place once per week.

Unvaccinated district and school staff and students who submit consent forms are strongly encouraged to participate in voluntary routine COVID pooled testing. This includes contracted staff such as bus drivers. Vaccinated staff and students may also participate in pooled testing if they submit consent forms; however, this is not recommended. An individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days should not participate in pooled testing.

Protocol for routine COVID pooled testing
If the routine <u>group pooled testing</u> result is negative, then:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All individuals within that group are presumed negative and should remain in school.
If the routine <u>group pooled testing</u> result is positive, then:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All individuals within that group should be retested individually by rapid antigen (e.g. BinaxNOW) or PCR test. • If asymptomatic, members of the group should return to school until and unless an individual is identified as positive. Individuals in the group should wear masks until the positive individual is identified. • Symptomatic members of the group should stay home and follow Protocol C.

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 revised by the DESE on May 17, 2021 and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association issued on May 17, 2021. The School Committee will abide these guidelines and charge the Superintendent to keep the administrative guidelines current and distributed to stakeholders.

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;
- is 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:

- during mask breaks (2 times per day, outside the building, weather permitting);
- while eating or drinking;
- for students only, while outside (recess, physical education, youth sports, and outdoor learning environments) per the DESE guidelines, published May 17, 2021;
- for athletes on spring teams in active play outdoors, on the bench/dugout, indoors at low-risk sports where 14 feet or more of distance are consistently maintained between each participant (per MIAA guidelines, published May 17, 2021);
- spectators, chaperones, coaches, staff, referees, umpires/other officials who can meet the district's 6-foot distancing guidelines outdoors only (per MIAA guidelines, published May 17, 2021).

Adults must continue to wear masks outdoors if distancing cannot be maintained, per the May 17, 2021 DESE guidelines. Visitors, spectators, volunteers, and staff must wear masks indoors during athletic events per the May 17, 2021 MIAA guidelines.

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 6 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.

A student's mask or face covering is to be provided by the student's family. Staff members are responsible for providing their own face coverings. However, the district will supply disposable face covering for individuals who arrive at a building, or board school transportation, without one. 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>

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, May 21, 2021

DRAFT

File: EBCFA

FACE COVERINGS

The _____ District is committed to providing a safe environment in schools during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Maintaining a safe environment is critical to the District's ability to ensure students remain in a full-time classroom learning environment.

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 and recommendations 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.

A face covering that covers the nose and mouth is strongly recommended to be worn by individuals who remain unvaccinated or are otherwise immunocompromised in school buildings, and on school grounds, even when social distancing is observed.

Individuals who are vaccinated are not required to wear a mask, but may do so if desired.

Students and staff returning from 5 day quarantine following a positive COVID test must follow strict mask use, other than when eating, drinking, or outside, and conduct active monitoring for symptoms, through day 10 of exposure.

Masks will be required in all school health offices.

By federal public health order, all students and staff are required to wear a mask on school buses.

Guidance Statements: Massachusetts Department of Public Health

[https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-mask-requirements - mask-requirements-in-certain-locations-](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-mask-requirements-mask-requirements-in-certain-locations-)

<https://search.mass.gov/?q=school+health+offices>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention – Guidance for Covid-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools Updated January 13, 2022.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – Fall 2021 Covid-19 Guidance Updated February 9, 2022

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/2022-0209mask-requirement-update.pdf>

SOURCE: MASC – February 10, 2022