

## FACE COVERINGS

The Easton 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.

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 social distancing is observed.

Exceptions to this policy under certain circumstances would be limited to students with medical, behavioral or other challenges who are unable to wear face coverings.

A written note from the student's health care provider is required for a requested exemption, must be submitted prior to the student attending school, and must be approved by the building principal in consultation with the school nurse.

Parents may not excuse their child from the face covering requirement by signing a waiver.

Face coverings will not be required when appropriate social distancing is enforced pursuant to the guidelines.

A student's face covering is to be provided by the student's family. Staff members are responsible for providing their own face coverings. The district will have disposable face coverings if individuals arrive at a building, or board school transportation, without one, or if the integrity of the face covering is in jeopardy.

If students are in violation of this policy, the students 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.

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This policy will remain in place until rescinded by the School Committee.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.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html)  
l

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

Adopted by SC - 8/20/2020