

## **FACE MASKS**

The Hudson School Committee is mindful of the evolving need for emergency measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. In consideration of the recommendations issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Massachusetts Department of Health, and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Committee is adopting this emergency policy for all students, employees and visitors of the Hudson Public Schools.

Until further action of the Committee, all students attending the Hudson Public Schools shall be required to wear a mask (a) while attending school or a school function in any school building, facility or other area of a school campus, and (b) when riding in school-provided transportation. All masks must cover the nose and mouth of the student. This policy applies to students waiting outside school buildings, before and after school, and to students waiting at bus stops. Students shall wear masks at all times except for the following:

- Students may remove masks for eating or drinking;
- Students may remove masks when appropriate social distancing measures are in place as determined by a teacher or school administrator;
- Students may be exempted from this policy by the school administrator due to a documented medical condition of the student;
- Students may remove masks on a case-by-case basis for specific instructional needs and other activities, as determined by a teacher, in which case the teacher will utilize appropriate social distancing measures; or
- Students may be exempted from this policy due to special behavioral or individualized needs as determined by the Director of Student Services.

Masks 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 disposable mask by the school district.

If a student attends in-person learning, the failure of a student to comply with these expectations and the willful defiance to follow direction from school staff will be considered insubordination and will result in progressive discipline.



Violations of this policy by staff will be handled in the same manner as other violations of the School Committee policies.

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

Adopted by the Hudson School Committee: September 1, 2020