



LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Lincoln, Massachusetts

FACE MASKS

The Lincoln School District is committed to providing a safe environment 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. ~~As the pandemic progresses and opportunities for vaccinations increase, the~~ ~~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), ~~continues to be updated. This policy has been modified to accommodate updates from the spring of 2021.~~ The following requirements are in place until further notice.

A face mask should cover the nose and mouth, fit snugly but comfortably against the face, and secure under the chin with ties or ear loops. Based on guidance from health authorities neck gaiters, open-chin, triangle bandanas, and face coverings containing valves, mesh material, or holes of any kind will not be considered appropriate. Masks must have at least 2 layers of breathable material. The masks must be worn by all ~~unvaccinated~~ individuals in school buildings ~~, on school grounds~~ and on school transportation ~~and by all individuals indoors when in the presence of students or other unvaccinated individuals.~~

The CDC strongly encourages the use of masks to reduce the spread of COVID-19, and recognizes there are specific instances when wearing a mask may not be feasible. Appropriate and necessary accommodations will be made for students/faculty/staff who are unable to wear masks due to medical conditions, disability impact, or other identified health or safety concerns. If your child is unable to wear a mask at school please provide the school nurse with written documentation from your child's pediatrician. Depending on the situation, a remote learning environment or modified schedule and/or learning environment may be advised for your child. Additional accommodations will be considered when participating in formal Special Education Evaluation. ~~If no accommodations are warranted, every individual must wear a mask in school buildings, on school grounds, and on school transportation.~~

~~Additionally, face masks will not be required when appropriate physical distancing of 6 feet or more can be maintained and is enforced:-~~

- ~~• During designated mask breaks for faculty, staff and students~~
- ~~• While eating or drinking as directed and in a designated space~~

Although not required by DESE, the district is requiring students in preschool through grade 1 to wear masks. Direct teaching and ongoing support will be provided to students. The expectation is that children in the younger grades wear masks to the extent possible in combination with other mitigating measures.

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

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 and transferred to remote 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.

Face masks for students are not required outdoors, even when physical distancing is not maintained. Adults are required to wear face masks outdoors if 6 feet of physical distancing cannot be maintained between themselves and students.

~~Visitors must wear masks when on school grounds unless 6 feet of physical distance can be maintained. Visitors to the school buildings or facilities, will put on face masks before entering the building.~~

For the purpose of drop off/arrival and pick up/dismissal of students, masks must be worn by all individuals when outside of the vehicle or on a school campus. Additionally, this expectation applies to all who walk or ride bicycles with students for the purpose of drop off or pick up. [Visitors to the school buildings or facilities, must put on face masks before entering the building.](#)

Additionally, face masks will not be required indoors when appropriate physical distancing of 6 feet or more can be maintained and is enforced:

- During designated mask breaks for faculty, staff and students
- While eating or drinking as directed and in a designated space

Construction workers or other maintenance workers working on school grounds may ~~only~~ take their masks off outdoors. ~~when they are able to maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance.~~ In addition, when working in the buildings, masks must be worn [by all unvaccinated individuals](#) and every effort should be made to maintain 6 feet of distance whenever possible.

Visitors in violation of this policy will be denied entry to the school/district facility and will be asked to leave school grounds.

Students, faculty, staff and administration must wear masks that adhere to the dress code as sited in the Lincoln Public School Parent-Student Handbook.

This policy will remain in place until rescinded by the School Committee.

REFERENCES:

LEGAL REFERENCE:-

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, COVID-19 ~~Order No. 31~~ [Mask Requirements](#)
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-mask-requirements>
~~<https://www.mass.gov/doc/may-1-2020-masks-and-face-coverings/download>~~

REFERENCES:-

Center for Disease Control and Prevention – [Guidance for Unvaccinated People: Guidance Considerations for Wearing Masks](#)

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcommunity%2Fschools-childcare%2Fcloth-face-cover.html~~<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>~~

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – [Reopening Guidelines Covid-19 Information and Resources](#)

<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 at School Committee Meeting of September 24, 2020.



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