

## **District 202 Protocol:**

### **Student Face Masks on School Premises**

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To prevent the spread of COVID-19, masks be worn inside school buildings and on school transportation, by teachers, staff, students, and visitors of Pre-K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. This supports safe in-person learning. Local boards of education, schools, and school districts do not have the authority to deny the Governor's Executive Order requiring universal indoor masking in schools.

The face mask should have two or more layers to stop the spread of COVID-19 and should be worn over the nose and mouth, be secured under the chin, and should fit snugly against the sides of the face without gaps. Reusable face masks should be machine washed or washed by hand and allowed to dry completely after each use. For additional information, see [CDC guidance for wearing masks](#). Students who do not have a face mask will be provided one by the district. Mesh masks, lace masks, and other face coverings with openings, valves, holes, vents, or other visible gaps in the design or material are not permitted.

The District will also provide designated outdoor space which allows for social distancing, to permit recess and other break periods for students where face masks are not required. The District will provide designated indoor space, marked for social distancing for student use during lunch periods. All lunch/recess/break periods will be supervised by District staff.

Students who are not wearing a face covering upon entry to school or a school bus or vehicle, or at any other school event where face masks are required, will be provided a disposable or clean cloth face covering for immediate use. Students who have not been provided an accommodation to the face covering requirement and who refuse to wear a face covering in the school building, on the school bus or other school activity where face masks are required may be sent home and excluded from instruction, transportation, and other school activities.

#### *Exceptions to universal consistent use of face masks:*

Per ISBE and IDPH, there are some exceptions to universal consistent use of face masks in limited situations. These individuals may be entitled to accommodations to the requirement or may be exempt from the requirement to wear a face mask.

- Individuals with a disability who, for reasons related to the disability, would be physically unable to remove a mask without assistance if breathing becomes obstructed. Examples might include a person with impaired motor skills, quadriplegia, or limb restrictions
- Individuals with an intellectual, developmental, cognitive, or psychiatric disability that affects the person's ability to understand the need to remove a mask if breathing becomes obstructed
- Individuals with a contraindication that prevents them from wearing a face mask.
- Individuals who have trouble breathing; or those who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face mask without assistance.

#### *Students who are eligible for Special Education*

Parents/guardians of students who have a medical condition or other disability which may prevent the safe wearing of face masks and who are currently receiving accommodations under Section 504 of the

Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) should confer with the building administration. Parents/guardians will be required to complete the District's "Face Mask Accommodation Form" which must be verified by the student's physician. Upon review of the completed and verified form, the District will consider accommodations for the student. If needed, a meeting with the parent/guardian or an IEP/504 meeting may be scheduled.

The District may verify all information provided by the student's parent/guardian and/or the student's physician through an independent review by a licensed medical provider of the District's choice.

#### *General Education Students*

Parents/guardians of students who are not currently served under Section 504 or IDEA who believe their student requires reasonable accommodation to the District's face covering requirement must complete the District's "Face Mask Accommodation Form" which must be verified by the Student's physician. The completed form should be provided to the building nurse. Upon review of the completed and verified form, the District will review the form and consider accommodations for the student. If needed, a meeting may be scheduled with the parent/guardian.

The District may verify all information provided by the student's parent/guardian and/or the student's physician through an independent review by a licensed medical provider of the District's choice.

#### *How to Apply for a Face Mask Accommodation*

Families who want to request a Face Mask Accommodation should contact the building nurse.

- A Face Masks Accommodation Form must be completed, verified by a physician, and submitted to the building nurse for students
- Each Face Mask Accommodation Request will be reviewed by the District and must be approved by the district before a student is permitted to not wear a mask on school grounds.

Individuals who meet the criteria for a Face Mask Accommodation may receive accommodations such as mask breaks, the option to wear a face shield in lieu of a face mask, or a full mask exemption in rare circumstances. Students who remove their face mask in these limited situations should be monitored and should maintain physical distancing to the greatest extent possible given the space in their facilities, with at least 3 feet recommended, but not required, between students and at least 6 feet recommended, but not required, between adults or between students and adults.

Parent/Guardian Requests a Face Mask Accommodation - Building Nurse provides parent/guardian a copy of the District Face Covering Accommodation Request Form

Building Nurse receives copy of the completed Face Mask Accommodation Request form and sends form to District Health Services Administrator

District Health Services Administrator Reviews the Request

Student is approved for consideration of a Face Mask Accommodation.

Face Mask Accommodation Request is denied. Student is required to wear a face mask when in school and related activities. Letter is sent to parent/guardian from District.

Building Administration and District Health Services Admin. work with parent/guardian to establish appropriate accommodations for the student. If needed, a meeting is held. If an accommodations plan is established, the student can attend school in-person with the agreed upon accommodations in place.