

North Providence School Department Face Coverings Policy-COVID-19	Approved: 10/28/2020

I. PURPOSE

The COVID 19 Pandemic may require extraordinary action or protocols to keep the school community safe and facilitate orderly education of our students.

The North Providence School Committee is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy environment for students, staff, and their families.

Pursuant to RI General Laws 16-2-9, 16-2-9.1 and 16-2-18, the North Providence School Committee has the responsibility to enforce applicable Federal and State laws, Executive Orders, rules and regulations, best practices and guidelines set forth from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) and RI Department of Health (RIDOH) for face coverings.

II. FACE COVERINGS MUST BE WORN IN NORTH PROVIDENCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Face coverings are required to be worn by all staff, students, and other individuals on school premises and/or attending school events or functions or incidental or related activities. Specifically, Employees/Students/Visitors shall wear a face covering while on school grounds.

The Superintendent of Schools is directed to develop a protocol to facilitate this policy including the following

All face coverings will follow the RIDOH and CDC guidance.

All face coverings shall, at a minimum include:

- ***It must have two or more layers.***
- ***It must cover your nose and mouth and be secured under the chin.***
- ***It must fit snugly against the side of your face with no gaps.***

Face masks may not have exhalation valves or vents.

Face masks must be worn in conjunction with a face shield.

Gaiters and bandanas are not acceptable face coverings and will not be permitted.

Students who do not arrive at school with a face covering, will be provided one.

Face coverings should be provided by the student/family, but extra disposable face coverings will be made available by the school for students and/or staff who need them.

Reusable face coverings provided by families should be washed by families daily.

Face coverings are required to be worn by everyone on the bus during school bus transportation.

During sports and related activities all athletes must have an approved face covering with them at all times and follow the athletic guidance from the Superintendent, (or designee), the Rhode Island Interscholastic League and CDC based on the requirement of their sport.

Face coverings are not required when eating breakfast, during snack time, and lunch time. During those times face coverings may be removed and social distancing guidelines followed.

III. FACE MASK BREAKS

Face covering breaks may occur throughout the day, as determined by the principal and where appropriate social distancing can be maintained. Breaks should occur when students can be consistently six or more feet apart and ideally outside or at least with the windows open.

IV. SUPPORTIVE AND COMPLIANCE EFFORTS

Designated district personnel shall work with all students to build tolerance for wearing face coverings.

Non-compliant students may be required to attend school in a distance learning environment.

Non-compliant staff may be subject to discipline.

Non-compliant third parties shall not be allowed to enter school facilities or attend school events.

V. EXCEPTIONS TO FACE MASK REQUIREMENTS

When a staff member or student is either alone in a room/office or alone with parents or guardians, they may remove their face covering.

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on children younger than age two.

No one within the developmentally delayed population will be forced to wear a face covering.

In carrying out this policy, the administration shall apply, as appropriate, rules, regulations and requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC 794), Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 USC 12131-12134) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 USC 1400, et seq) all as amended from time to time as well as any other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

VI. DEVELOPMENT OF PROTOCOL

The Superintendent of Schools shall develop a protocol to facilitate this policy. The protocol shall include a proactive plan to appropriately respond to those who refuse to wear a mask covering their nose and mouth.

This protocol should include: (1) staff and family and student engagement; (2) public facing efforts to educate students, families, staff and other third parties around the need to wearing face coverings; (3) remedial and compliance efforts such as meetings with school staff and the students' families; (4) institution of mandatory distance learning, (5) appropriate disciplinary actions; and (6) other actions to support the staff, student and the family to ensure compliance with this policy.

Approved: 10/28/2020

Amended: 11/18/2020