



ANDOVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE

SC ROOM Key: *I.O. = Information Only; A.R. = Action Request*

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022
SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONFERENCE ROOM

** Please note that public comment – either during the Public Input agenda item or on specific agenda topics – should follow School Committee [policy BEDH](#) *Public Comment at School Committee Meetings* and [policy BEDH-E](#) *Guidelines for Public Comment*, including limiting remarks to 3 minutes.**

- I. School Committee Meeting – Call to Order 6:00 PM
- II. *Motion and vote to meet in executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A, section 21(a) for the following purposes: Purpose (2) to discuss strategy in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, namely Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Administration because an open session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Committee. Purpose (3) to discuss strategy with respect to bargaining with unionized personnel, namely the Andover Assistants and (AEA) Unit A because an open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee. The Committee will reconvene in regular session at approximately 7:00PM.*

- III. Resume Regular SC Meeting 7:00 PM
 - A. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Salute to Flag
 - B. Recognitions/Communications
 - C. Public Input
 - D. Response to Public Input
 - E. Education
 - F. New Business
 - 1. Discussion: Andover High School Statement of Interest & AHS Building Committee A.R.
 - 2. Discussion & First Reading: EBCFA Face Coverings SC Policy I.O.
 - G. Consent Agenda A.R.
 - 1. Grants/Donations to District
 - 2. SC Meeting Minutes

- H. Adjournment

The School Committee intends to hold in-person meetings when practical in accordance with evolving health and safety regulations. Members of the public who attend School Committee meetings in person must wear a mask in compliance with School Committee policy [EBCFA Face Coverings](#).

This is the SC posted agenda for the upcoming meeting to the best of our knowledge at the time of posting; however, other agenda items may arise; therefore, the SC reserves the right to discuss additional items if merited.

The mission of the Andover Public Schools, in partnership with the entire Andover community, is to educate by engaging and inspiring, students to develop as self-reliant, responsible citizens who are thinkers, problem solvers, and contributors prepared to participate in an evolving global society.

FACE COVERINGS

The Andover Public Schools District is committed to providing a safe and operational environment as schools continue to operate 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. Therefore, the following requirements are in place when the District determines masking will be required inside Andover Public School buildings during the school day and at all school sponsored events.

All individuals inside school buildings and on school transportation, even when social distancing is observed, must wear a face mask that:

- covers the nose and mouth;
- fits securely and comfortably against the side of the face;
- is secured with ties or ear loops;
- allows for breathing without restriction;
- does NOT have an exhalation valve or vent;
- can be laundered and machine dried without damage or change of shape if a multi-use mask;
- is a fresh surgical mask if single use.

Students and staff are not required to wear face masks outdoors even if defined social distance is not observed. This applies to:

- recess;
- physical education classes;
- athletics as defined by the MA EEA and adopted by the MIAA;
- learning environments; and
- eating and drinking.

Individuals may be excused from the mask requirement if they:

- have trouble breathing;
- are unconscious;

- are incapacitated;
- cannot remove a face mask without assistance.

Accommodations will be made for individuals for whom face masks are not possible due to medical conditions, disability impact, a significant impediment to communication, or other health or safety factors, which for students may include behavioral challenges. Medical documentation acceptable to APS is required for a requested accommodation. Any accommodations must be approved by the building principal in consultation with the school nurse or local Board of Health. Face shields or physical barriers may provide an alternative in some instances. Parents may not excuse their child from the face mask requirement by signing a waiver.

Face masks will be required **indoors** except:

- during approved mask breaks of less than 15 minutes;
- while eating or drinking during designated snack and lunch; and
- while alone in an office or classroom.

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

If students are in violation of this policy, the building principal or designee will consult with the parent/guardians to determine whether an accommodation is appropriate, or the student may be removed from the school building until such time as they can comply with the requirement.

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

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

The School Committee delegates [TS1]the authority to the Superintendent in consultation with the School Committee Chair, Director of Nursing, and Andover Director of Public Health to invoke this policy or rescind it as deemed operationally necessary and/or in accordance with guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and state and local departments of public health.

The following requirements apply when masking is **not** required for all students and staff within Andover Public School buildings.

- **Students and staff who test positive for Covid-19 must follow the current State of Massachusetts Isolation and Quarantine Guidelines.**
- **Masks are required in all school nursing offices.**

- **By federal public health order, all students and staff are required to wear a mask while riding on school buses.**
- It is strongly advised that students and staff who are not fully vaccinated or are immunocompromised continue to wear a mask when inside an APS building or while attending a school sponsored event.^[TC2]
- When deemed necessary based on data, and in consultation with the School Committee Chair, Director of Nursing, and Andover Director of Public Health, the Superintendent may invoke a masking requirement under this policy for an individual school.

Students and staff shall retain the option to wear a mask whenever and wherever desired at times when masking is not mandated by the school district.

The School Committee believes that all students deserve every opportunity to achieve academic success in a safe, secure learning environment. Good citizenship in schools is based on respect and consideration for the rights and choices of others. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a way that respects those rights and choices.

Further, NO student shall be subjected to harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyber-bullying for their personal choice to wear or not wear a mask during times when masks are not required by the District.

Any student engaging in conduct demonstrating disrespect for another student's choice with respect to masking, including harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyber-bullying, will be subject to discipline as defined in School Committee policies [JIC: Student Conduct](#) and [JICFB: Bullying Prevention](#).

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

CROSS REF: [EEAEC](#): Student Conduct On School Busses

[GBEB](#): Staff Conduct

[JIC](#): Student Discipline

[JICFB](#): Bullying Prevention

[KE](#): Public Complaints

LEGAL REF:

REFS:

Massachusetts Department of Public Health – [Mask Advisory Updated December 21, 2021](#)

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/updated-advisory-regarding-masks-and-face-coverings-july-30-2021-0/download>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – [Guidance for Covid-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools Updated January 22, 2022](#) -

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – [Guidance for Covid-19 Prevention on Public Transportation](#)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html>

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – [Press Release: Statewide School Mask Requirement Will Be Lifted February 28](#)

<https://mailchi.mp/doe.mass.edu/press-releasestatewide-school-mask-requirement-will-be-lifted-february-28>

American Academy of Pediatrics - Recommendations for Opening Schools in Fall 2021

<https://services.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases/aap/2021/american-academy-of-pediatrics-updates-recommendations-for-opening-schools-in-fall-2021/>

American Academy of Pediatrics - [Guidance for Safe Schools and Promotion of In-Person Learning Updated January 14, 2022](#)^[TS3]

<https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

SOURCE: ANDOVER - September 2, 2020 (adopted from MASC August 2020 template)
Updated 10/1/20; 5/20/21; REVISED 08/16/21; REVISED February ____, 2022.

FACE COVERINGS

The Andover Public Schools District is committed to providing a safe and operational environment as schools continue to operate 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. Therefore, ~~in accordance with guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and recommendations from state and local departments of health,~~ the following requirements are in place when it is the District determines locally that masking will be required ~~within the inside~~ Andover Public School buildings during the school day and at all school sponsored events. ~~until further notice.~~

All individuals inside school buildings and on school transportation, even when social distancing is observed, must wear a face mask that, ~~per DPH guidance:~~

- covers the nose and mouth;
- fits securely and comfortably against the side of the face;
- is secured with ties or ear loops;
- allows for breathing without restriction;
- does NOT have an exhalation valve or vent;
- can be laundered and machine dried without damage or change of shape if a multi-use mask;
- is a fresh surgical mask if single use.

~~must be worn by all individuals inside school buildings and on school transportation, even when social distancing is observed.~~

Students and staff are not required to wear face masks outdoors even if defined social distance is not observed. This applies to:

- recess;
- physical education classes;
- athletics as defined by the MA EEA and adopted by the MIAA;
- learning environments; and
- eating and drinking.

~~Students and staff retain the option to wear a mask outdoors if desired.~~

Individuals may be excused from the mask requirement ~~for the following list of reasons, per CDC guidance:~~

~~The individual if they:~~

- ~~has~~ has trouble breathing;
- ~~is~~ is unconscious;
- ~~is~~ is incapacitated;
- cannot remove a face mask without assistance.

Accommodations will be made for individuals for whom face masks are not possible due to medical conditions, disability impact, a significant impediment to communication, or other health or safety factors, which for students may include behavioral challenges. Medical documentation acceptable to APS is required for a requested accommodation. Any accommodations must be approved by the building principal in consultation with the school nurse or local Board of Health. Face shields or physical barriers may provide an alternative in some instances. Parents may not excuse their child from the face mask requirement by signing a waiver.

Face masks will be required indoors except:

- during approved mask breaks of less than 15 minutes;
- while eating or drinking during designated snack and lunch; and
- while alone in an office or classroom; ~~and~~

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

If students are in violation of this policy, the building principal or designee will consult with the parent/guardians to determine whether an accommodation is appropriate, or the student may be removed from the school building 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 all 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.~~

~~The School Committee delegates~~ ^[751] the authority to ~~Where circumstances require an immediate decision, authority is delegated to~~ the Superintendent in consultation with the School Committee Chair, Director of Nursing, and Andover Director of Public Health to invoke this policy or rescind it as deemed operationally necessary and/or amend or temporarily suspend this policy in

accordance with guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and state and local departments of public health.

The following requirements apply when masking is **not** required for all students and staff within Andover Public School buildings.

- Students and staff who test positive for Covid-19 must follow the current State of Massachusetts Isolation and Quarantine Guidelines.
- ~~Students and staff returning from 5 day quarantine^[TC2] following a positive COVID test must follow strict mask use, other than when eating, drinking, or outside, and conduct active monitoring for symptoms, through day 10 of exposure.~~
- Masks are required in all school nursing offices.
- By federal public health order, all students and staff are required to wear a mask while riding on school buses.
- ~~Students must wear a mask that complies with this policy while riding APS transportation, in accordance with requirements under Federal law.~~
- It is strongly advised that ~~s~~Students and staff who are not fully vaccinated or are immunocompromised continue to must wear a mask that complies with this policy at all times when inside an APS building or while attending a school sponsored event.^[TC3]
- ~~Students and staff who return to school following a positive COVID 19 test must wear a mask that complies with this policy for five calendar days.~~
- When deemed necessary based on data, and in consultation with the School Committee Chair, Director of Nursing, and Andover Director of Public Health, the Superintendent may invoke a masking requirement under this policy for an individual school.

Students and staff shall retain the option to wear a mask whenever and wherever desired at times when masking is not mandated by the school district.

The School Committee believes that all students deserve every opportunity to achieve academic success in a safe, secure learning environment. Good citizenship in schools is based on respect and consideration for the rights and choices of others. Students ~~will be~~ are expected to conduct themselves in a way that respects those rights, and choices, and privileges are not violated.

Further, NO student shall be subjected to harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyber-bullying for their personal choice to wear or not wear a mask during times when masks are not mandated required by the ~~d~~District.

Any student engaging in ~~conduct demonstrating the disrespect of for~~ another student's choice with respect to masking, including harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyber-bullying, ~~of that student~~ will be subject to discipline as defined in School Committee policies JIC: Student Conduct and JICFB: Bullying Prevention.

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

CROSS REF: [EEAEC](#): Student Conduct On School Buses

[GBEB](#): Staff Conduct

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REFS:

Massachusetts Department of Public Health – Mask Advisory Updated December 21, 2021

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Guidance for Covid-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools Updated January 22, 2022 ~~August 5, 2021~~

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

Centers for Disease Controls and Prevention – Guidance for Covid-19 Prevention on Public Transportation

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html>

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – Press Release: Statewide School Mask Requirement Will Be Lifted February 28 - Fall 2021 Covid-19 Guidance

<https://mailchi.mp/doe.mass.edu/press-releasestatewide-school-mask-requirement-will-be-lifted-february-28>

https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on_desktop/2021-0730fall-2021-eovid19-guidance.pdf

American Academy of Pediatrics - Recommendations for Opening Schools in Fall 2021

<https://services.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases/aap/2021/american-academy-of-pediatrics-updates-recommendations-for-opening-schools-in-fall-2021/>

American Academy of Pediatrics – Guidance for Safe Schools and Promotion of In-Person Learning Updated January 14, 2022^[TS4]

SOURCE: ANDOVER - September 2, 2020 (adopted from MASC August 2020 template) Updated 10/1/20; 5/20/21; REVISED 08/16/21; February __, 2022.

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