

EMERGENCY FACE MASK POLICY FOR EMPLOYEES, VISITORS, AND VENDORS FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

In light of the aggressive transmission of the delta variant to COVID-19, given the current elevated rates of hospitalization and positivity for COVID-19 in Sarasota County, and given the current high rate of positivity for COVID-19 in Sarasota County schools and the corresponding impact on the operation of the school district, the School Board strongly encourages employees, visitors, and vendors to: (1) wear masks covering their noses and mouths at all times while indoors and while outdoors in a crowded setting, (2) become vaccinated, (3) obtain a booster shot if or when one becomes available, and (4) quarantine when showing COVID-19 symptoms.

- I. For the first 30 days following this emergency policy becoming effective, all employees, visitors, and vendors must wear either a medical grade or COVID-style mask while at school, while on school property, during school sponsored activities, and during transportation to and from school or school-sponsored activities, at all times while indoors or outdoors in a crowded setting.
- II. Until November 23, 2021, all employees who are not vaccinated must wear either a medical grade or COVID-style mask while at school, while on school property, during school sponsored activities, and during transportation to and from school or school-sponsored activities, at all times while indoors or outdoors in a crowded setting.
- III. Exceptions: Employees, visitors, and vendors may remove masks in order to eat or drink or for medical reasons. The School Board will consider accommodations in accordance with state and federal law when interpreting this emergency policy.
- IV. Individuals may only wear the type of face masks that are specifically described in this emergency policy. Face masks must be worn at all times in full conformance with this emergency policy.
- V. Translucent face shields that restrict the outward free flow of air beyond the individual's nose and mouth area but that do not obscure from the view of others the individual's eyes, may be worn by any employee, visitor, or vendor, including as a supplemental mask to masks mandated by this emergency policy.
- VI. Gaiters, buffs, or bandanas may not be worn as an alternative to face masks.
- VII. All face masks and shields must comply with school dress codes and the Employee Handbook, and all School Board collectively-bargained policies, including the School Board's policies against harassment and bullying.
- VIII. Violations of this emergency policy may lead to the imposition of discipline or the revocation of access or other privileges.

- IX. This emergency policy becomes effective on August 25, 2021 and will expire 90 days after it becomes effective. Upon becoming effective it shall temporarily constitute a modification to the previously-enacted 2021-2022 Face Mask policy. To the extent the previously enacted 2021-2022 Face Mask policy conflicts with this emergency policy, the previously enacted 2021-2022 Face Mask policy shall be temporarily suspended. Upon expiration of this emergency policy, the previously enacted 2021-2022 Face Mask policy pertaining to students, employees, visitors, and vendors shall again become effective and remain so until its sunsets June 30, 2022, unless extended or amended prior to that date.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

FS 1001.41; FS 1001.42; FS 1001.43; FS 120.54(4)

LAWS IMPLEMENTED:

FS 1001.42(4) & (8); FS 1003.31; FS 1012.23; F.S. 1014.01-1014.06; 64DER21-12

ADOPTED: