

EMERGENCY FACE MASK POLICY FOR STUDENTS 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 students 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 students must wear 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, unless a parent informs the school district of that parent's intent to opt their student out of this mandate.
- II. Until November 23, 2021, all students under 12 years of age 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, unless a parent informs the school district of that parent's intent to opt their student out of this mandate.
- III. A "parent" is a person who has legal custody of a minor child as a natural or adoptive parent or a legal guardian.
- IV. Exceptions: Students may remove masks in conformance with parental preference, in order to eat or drink, for medical reasons, and consistent with a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- V. Accommodations: Upon the request of a parent of a student with a serious medical condition or family member with a serious medical condition, schools will make best efforts to accommodate the student's concerns. The School Board must consider accommodations in accordance with state and federal law when interpreting this emergency policy.
- VI. The School Board will make available parental preference forms that enable a parent to opt their children out of wearing face masks or to request an accommodation.
- VII. 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 student, including as a supplemental

mask to masks mandated by this emergency policy.

- VIII. Gaiters, buffs, or bandanas may not be worn as an alternative to face masks.
- IX. All face masks and shields must comply with school dresscodes and the Code of Student Conduct, including the School Board's policies against harassment and bullying.
- X. Violations of this emergency policy may lead to the imposition of discipline or the revocation of access or other privileges.
- XI. 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: