

PALISADES PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION

410 Second Street
Palisades Park, NJ 07650

Dr. Joseph Cirillo
Superintendent of Schools

March 1, 2022

Good afternoon,

Please be advised that with the mandatory mask wearing executive order expiring on March 7th, the Board of Education has revised its policy on face coverings. Our policy can be found attached to this email. Please note that no student or staff member shall be prevented from wearing a face covering should they choose to do so. Additionally, at any time in collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Health and the Palisades Park Health Department we can immediately reinstitute a mandatory policy if conditions warrant such a need. Examples that would necessitate such a decision are as follows:

- 1.) During periods of elevated community transmission – when COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI) is elevated, high (orange) and or very high (Red);
- 2.) During an active outbreak or a general increase in cases;
- 3.) After returning from isolation or quarantine
- 4.) When illness occurs in school – students or staff who become ill with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 while in school should wear a mask until they leave the premises; and
- 5.) If applicable, during Test to Stay - students participating in Test to Stay should be required to mask.

Once again thank you very much for your continued support.

Be safe and stay well,

Dr. Cirillo

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Dr. Joseph Cirillo
Superintendent of Schools

1 de marzo del 2022

Buenas tardes,

Por favor tenga en cuenta que con la orden ejecutiva de uso obligatorio de mascarilla que expira el 7 de marzo, la Junta de Educación ha revisado su política sobre el uso de mascarillas. Nuestra política se puede encontrar adjunta a este correo electrónico. Por favor tenga en cuenta que a ningún estudiante o miembro del personal se le impedirá llevar una cubierta facial si decide hacerlo. Además, en cualquier momento, en colaboración con el Departamento de Salud de Nueva Jersey y el Departamento de Salud de Palisades Park, podemos reinstaurar inmediatamente una política obligatoria si las condiciones lo justifican. Los ejemplos que requerirían tal decisión son los siguientes:

- 1.) Durante periodos de elevada transmisión en la comunidad - cuando el Índice de Nivel de Actividad de COVID-19 (CALI) es elevado, alto (naranja) y o muy alto (Rojo);
- 2.) Durante un brote activo o un aumento general de casos;
- 3.) Después de regresar del aislamiento o la cuarentena;
- 4.) Cuando la enfermedad ocurre en la escuela - los estudiantes o el personal que se enferman con síntomas consistentes con COVID-19 mientras están en la escuela deben usar una máscara hasta que abandonen las instalaciones; y
- 5.) Si procede, durante la Prueba de Permanencia - los estudiantes que participen en la Prueba de Permanencia deberán llevar mascarilla.

Una vez más, muchas gracias por su continuo apoyo

Cuidense, y manténganse sanos y salvos.

Dr. Cirillo

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조셉 시릴로 박사
교육감

2022년 3월 1일

안녕하세요,

마스크 착용 의무화 행정명령이 3월 7일 만료됨에 따라 교육위원회가 안면 가리개 관련 정책을 수정하였음을 알려드립니다. 당사 정책은 이 이메일에 첨부되어 있습니다. 학생이나 교직원이 선택하더라도 안면 가리개를 착용하는 것을 금지해서는 안 됩니다. 또한, 뉴저지 보건부 및 펠리세이즈 파크 보건부와 협력하여 조건이 그러한 필요성을 정당화하는 경우 언제든지 의무 정책을 즉시 복원할 수 있습니다. 그러한 결정이 필요한 예는 다음과 같습니다.

- 1.) 지역사회 전파가 높은 기간 동안 – COVID-19 활동 수준 지수(CALI)가 높을 때 높음(주황색) 및/또는 매우 높음(빨간색)
- 2.) 적극적인 발병 또는 사례의 일반적인 증가 동안;
- 3.) 격리 또는 격리에서 돌아온 후
- 4.) 학교에서 질병이 발생한 경우 – 학교에서 COVID-19와 일치하는 증상을 보이는 학생 또는 교직원은 학교를 떠날 때까지 마스크를 착용해야 합니다. 그리고,
- 5.) 해당되는 경우, 코비드 테스트를 하고 기다리는 중에 있는 학생은 마스크를 착용해야 합니다.

변함없는 성원에 다시 한번 진심으로 감사드립니다.

안전하게 잘 지내십시오.

닥터 시릴로

	Monitored
X	Mandated
X	Other Reasons

Policy

FACE COVERINGS

Students and staff members are not required to wear face coverings during the school day unless directed to by the chief school administrator. No student or staff member shall be prevented from wearing a face covering should they choose to do so. In accordance with the order* issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), face coverings shall still be required on school buses and other forms of school transportation.

The board prohibits bullying in accordance with law and board policy 5131.1 Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying of students who choose to wear personal protective equipment (PPE), including face coverings. Any student or staff member who is found to have harassed, intimidated or bullied a student for wearing personal protective equipment shall be disciplined in accordance with the code of student conduct and board policy 5131.1 Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying.

The chief school administrator, after consultation with the school nurse and the school medical inspector may at his/her discretion reinstate the face covering requirement and require staff, students and visitors to use face coverings in the indoor portion of the school district premises. Face covering requirements may be reinstated school-wide or in certain classes or school areas where social distancing cannot be implemented. The chief school administrator shall inform the board president as soon as practicable of the decision to reinstate the face covering requirement. The chief school administrator may require staff and students to wear face coverings when:

- A. Recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and/or the New Jersey Department of Health (DOH) including the local DOH;
- B. Recommended by the New Jersey Department of Education;
- C. Local conditions indicate an escalation of infection in the schools or the towns sending students to the district;
- D. Social distancing cannot be implemented in a classroom or other school areas, including school assemblies and performances;
- E. Exposure to COVID-19 or any variant of the virus would be potentially life-threatening to a student or staff member with an underlying medical condition;
- F. Other reasons deemed appropriate by the board in consultation with the chief school administrator and school nurse.

Face Coverings

- A. When staff, students, and visitors are required to wear face coverings the following exceptions to the requirement shall apply:
 - 1. When wearing a face covering would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;
 - 2. When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face coverings without assistance;
 - 3. When a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes use of a face covering;
 - 4. When the individual is under two (2) years of age;

FACE COVERINGS (continued)

5. When the individual is engaged in activity that cannot physically be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating or drinking, or playing a musical instrument that would be obstructed by a face covering;
 6. When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity;
 7. When a student is participating in high-intensity physical activities during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals; or
 8. When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task;
- B. Individuals shall be frequently reminded not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently;
- C. Information shall be provided to staff, students, and students' families on proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings;
- D. Currently, the CDC does not recommend use of face shields as a substitute for face coverings. Therefore, they may not be used to satisfy the face covering requirement detailed above. However, they may be an option for students with medical or other challenges that preclude the use of face coverings. If face shields are used without a mask, they should wrap around the sides of the wearer's face and extend to below the chin;
- E. Students and educators that rely on facial cues may consider the use of clear face coverings where available. This might include students who are deaf or hard of hearing, students receiving speech/language services, young students in early education programs, and English-language learners;
- F. Researchers have identified "frequent discomfort" as a potential challenge associated with implementing use of face covering requirements. Students and staff shall be provided face covering breaks throughout the day. Face covering breaks should only occur when social distancing can be maintained and ideally outside or with windows open ("Physical Distancing, face coverings, and eye protection to prevent person-to-person transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis");
- G. Face coverings shall be provided by the student's family/guardian and may be included as part of the back to school supplies list provided to families/guardians prior to the start of the school year. The district shall strive to provide extra disposable face coverings for students who need them, and shall provide face coverings for students that are experiencing financial hardship and are unable to afford them to the greatest extent possible.

Social Distancing During a Pandemic

The district shall ensure that social distancing within the schools and classrooms is maintained to the maximum extent practicable. This will be achieved by ensuring students are seated at least six feet apart. When conditions such as space in the classroom or other areas of the school make a physical distance of six feet difficult or impossible to maintain, additional modifications may be implemented. These include but are not limited to requiring face masks to be worn, using physical barriers between desks and turning desks to face the same direction (rather than facing each other) or having students sit on only one side of the table, spaced apart.

Any modifications that are made to school district facilities shall be in coordination with local code officials and Department county offices to ensure that alterations adhere to school safety requirements.

Social distancing practices shall be maintained on school buses (at least six feet of distance between riders) to the maximum extent practicable (see board policy 3541.33 Transportation Safety) and face coverings shall be required on school buses.

FACE COVERINGS (continued)Screening

When local conditions indicate an escalation of infection in the schools or the towns sending students to the district, screening procedures may be implemented for staff students and visitors entering the schools according to the following guidelines:

A. Screening and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

1. Adequate amount of personal protective equipment (PPE) shall be available, accessible, and provided for use by staff and students. Staff and students may be required to wear masks when being admitted to the school and may be screened for entry;
2. The principal or his or her designee shall develop a school entry plan that includes:
 - a. Staff assigned to do the screening;
 - b. Designated entrances that will be used to admit students;
 - c. The assignment of classes and grades to designated entrances and/or designated entrance times;
3. Staff must visually check students for symptoms upon arrival (which may include temperature checks) and/or confirm with families that students are free of COVID-19 symptoms;
4. Health checks must be conducted safely and respectfully, and in accordance with any applicable privacy laws and regulations;
5. Results must be documented when signs/symptoms of COVID-19 are observed;
6. Screening procedures shall take into account students with disabilities and accommodations that may be needed in the screening process for those students;

B. Procedures for symptomatic staff and students:

1. The school principal shall establish an isolation space;
2. Students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 shall be safely and respectfully isolated from others. Students should remain in isolation with continued supervision and care until picked up by an authorized adult;
3. The current Communicable Disease Service guidance for illness reporting shall be followed;
4. If a staff member becomes aware that an individual who has spent time in a district facility tests positive for COVID-19, the staff members shall notify the principal and the school nurse. The school nurse shall immediately notify local health officials, staff, and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality;

C. Preparations for when someone tests positive for COVID-19:

1. The school principal shall establish an isolation space;
2. Students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 shall be safely and respectfully taken to the designated isolation space and isolated from others. Students should remain in isolation with continued supervision and care until picked up by an authorized adult;
3. The current Communicable Disease Service guidance for illness reporting shall be followed;
4. Readmittance to school shall be consistent with Department of Health guidance and information for schools and Department of Health/Communicable Disease Service's Quick Reference Guidance on Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Home Isolation for Persons Diagnosed with COVID-19;
5. Contact tracing shall be initiated including records of groups/cohorts, assigned staff, and daily attendance.

D. Protocols to address a positive case:

Students and employees may be asked to leave or not come into school if they test positive for COVID-19

FACE COVERINGS (continued)

or exhibit one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19, based on CDC guidance, that is not otherwise explained:

1. A fever of 100° F or greater;
2. Cough;
3. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
4. Chills;
5. Repeated shaking with chills;
6. Muscle pain;
7. Headache;
8. Sore throat;
9. New loss of taste or smell;
10. Fatigue;
11. Congestion or runny nose;
12. Nausea or vomiting;
13. Diarrhea.

Adopted: 09/16/2021
 NJSBA Review/Update: 02/24/2022
 Readopted:

Key Words

Immunizations, Inoculations, Examinations, Pupil Physical Examinations, Student Physical Examinations, Health

Resources:

The CDC recently issued updated guidance regarding considerations for wearing face coverings and how it can help slow the spread of COVID-19. Schools should refer to this guidance as it includes details regarding who should and should not wear a face covering:
[Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools | CDC](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention "Your Guide to Masks" at: [Your Guide to Masks | CDC](#)

NJDOE School Reopening Frequently Asked Questions at:
<https://www.nj.gov/education/reopening/faqs/#sd>

NJDOE Update to Conditions of Learning, Health and Safety, "Critical Area of Operation #5: Screening, PPE, and Response to Students and Staff Presenting Symptoms" and "Critical Area of Operation #3: Transportation" <https://nj.gov/education/reopening/updates/docs/RestartUpdateFacecoverings080320.pdf>
 "Physical Distancing, face coverings, and eye protection to prevent person-to-person transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis;" September 21, 2020. D.K. Chu, S. Duda, K. Solo, S. Yaacoub, and H. Schunemann.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7503118/>

Legal References: [N.J.S.A. 18A:354.6](#)
 through 4.8
[N.J.S.A. 18A:404](#)
[N.J.S.A. 18A:404.4](#)
[N.J.S.A. 18A:404.5](#)
[N.J.S.A. 18A:405](#)
[N.J.S.A. 18A:406](#)
[N.J.S.A. 18A:407, 8,](#)

[Parents Right to Conscience Act of 1979](#)
 Examination for physical defects and screening of hearing of pupils; health records
 Exemption
 Immunity from action of any kind due to provisions of act
 Method of examination; notice to parent or guardian
 In general

FACE COVERINGS (continued)

10, 11	Exclusion of pupils who are ill
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:4012.37	Release to share medical information
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:4020	Immunization at public expense
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 26:1A9.1	Exemption of pupils from mandatory immunizations
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 26:46	Prohibiting attendance of teachers or pupils
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:14-3.4	Evaluation
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Programs to Support Student Development
<u>See particularly:</u>	
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-1.1, -1.3, -2.1, -2.2, -2.3, -2.4	
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:574.3	Medical exemptions
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:574.4	Religious exemptions
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:57-4.5	Provisional admission
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:574.7	Records required
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:574.8	Reports to be sent to the State Department of Health
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:574.9	Records available for inspection
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:574.22	Emergency power of the Commissioner, Department of Health and Senior
20 <u>U.S.C.A.</u> 1232h	Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment

**Requirement for Persons to Wear Masks While on Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs.* Order Under Section 361 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 264) and 42 Code of Federal Regulations 70.2, 71.31(b), 71.32(b)

Executive Order No. 251, Governor Philip D. Murphy, August 6, 2021.

The NJDOE Guidance: *The Road Back: Restart and Recovery* at: <https://www.nj.gov/education/reopening/>

The NJDOE Guidance: *The Road Forward: Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year* at: [The Road Forward \(nj.gov\)](https://www.nj.gov/education/reopening/)

Possible

<u>Cross References:</u> *1410	Local units
*4123	Classroom aides
*5111	Admission
*5113	Absences and excuses
*5131.1	Harassment, intimidation and bullying
*5131.6	Drugs, alcohol, tobacco (substance abuse)
*5141	Health
*5141.21	Administering medication
*5200	Nonpublic school pupils
*6142.4	Physical education and health
*6145.1/6145.2	Intramural competition; interscholastic competition
*6162.5	Research
*6164.4	Child study team
*6171.4	Special education

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.