

January 6, 2021

RE: Riverside Magnet School's Before and After School Studio Program- Mask Policy

This policy outlines the requirements for mask wearing while attending the Riverside Magnet School's Before and After School Studio Program. Updated guidance from, LEARN, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics along with the guidance to assist children with the social emotional aspects of mask wearing found on the website of the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood were considered when developing this policy.

Mask Requirements

All staff are required to wear a mask or face covering at all times while in the program unless doing so would be contrary to his or her health or safety because of a medical condition, or subject to another exception listed below. If a medical condition exists, documentation will be required from a licensed medical practitioner.

Any individual who presents for entrance into Riverside Magnet School, or LEARN facility who is not wearing an appropriate face covering shall be provided an appropriate face covering by Riverside magnet School/ LEARN.

An appropriate face covering shall consist of a non-valved, multi-layer cloth masks or disposable procedure-style mask that completely covers the individual's nose and mouth.

An appropriate face covering shall not include "neck gaitors," bandanas or exhalation valve masks. Also, a face shield alone is not an acceptable substitute for a face mask/face covering, but may be used in conjunction with a cloth or disposable face mask/face covering.

Children age three and older are required to wear a mask or face covering except for the following:

Students, staff and all individuals inside school buildings and Goodwin facilities are required to wear appropriate face coverings except if: (i) the individual cannot wear the face covering because the individual has difficulty breathing, is unconscious, or incapacitated; (ii) the individual cannot remove the face covering without assistance; (iii) the individual has a documented medical reason making it unsafe to wear a mask; or (iv) the individual has a disability that causes the individual to be unable to wear a face covering.

- The student has a medical exemption that is documented with a current 504 plan or and Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- Children who are newly enrolled within the past two months and are working toward mask wearing.
- Children who have just turned three years old within the past two months and are acclimating to wearing a mask.

Breaks from Mask Wearing

Children are not required to wear a mask while eating, sleeping or resting. During these times when masks are removed, distance between children will be maximized, maintaining at least 6 feet of distance wherever possible.

One mask break will be held in the morning and one in the afternoon within cohorts of children. During these breaks, a physical distance between children will be maximized, maintaining at least 6 feet of distance wherever possible.

Children will be allowed to remove their mask when outdoors.

Staff will keep their masks on unless they can be 6 feet or more apart from children.

Face coverings may only be removed within the school building for the following reasons: (i) eating/drinking; (ii) on school grounds with appropriate social distancing implemented; and (iii) educational or medical activities requiring removal of masks (speech and language, evaluations, etc.) ONLY under circumstances when the school has implemented appropriate and LEARN/Goodwin-approved mitigating measures (such as gowns, face shields, additional social distancing, physical barriers for LEARN employees and/or students).

Children Experiencing Difficulties with Mask Wearing:

Staff will work with children who have difficulty complying with the mask requirement by issuing soft verbal reminders and other gentle means of supporting compliance. Children will not be disciplined or excluded from the program or isolated from their peers due to non-compliance with mask wearing. Staff will work with parents of children having difficulty wearing a face mask to develop a plan to support the child so that they will adapt to wearing a face mask. However, if a parent refuses to have their child wear a face mask, continued enrollment will not be permitted.

Wearing and Removing Masks:

- Hands will be washed or sanitized before putting on a mask.
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- All masks or face coverings shall cover the mouth and nose and wrap securely around the face.
- Masks will not be put around the neck or up on the forehead.
- Efforts will be taken to not touch the mask when wearing and only handled by the ear loops or ties.
- Efforts will be taken not to touch eyes, nose, and mouth when removing.
- Hands will be washed immediately after removing a mask.

- When possible, staff will wash or sanitize their hands before and after helping a student put on or adjust a mask.
- Masks will be clearly identified with staff and children's names or initials, to avoid confusion or swapping.
- Masks will be stored in individually labeled containers or paper bags.
- Masks are required to be washed after every day of use and/or before being used again, or if visibly soiled.
- Parents will be asked to supply additional masks for their child in case a back-up mask is needed during the day and to facilitate every day washing of masks.

This document is subject to change depending on changes and updates in COVID information. Updated: 1/4/2021

Further information can be found at the sites below:

<https://www.ctoec.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/COVID-19-Memo-29-Masks-and-Group-Size-English-2020.10.08.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/cloth-face-cover.html>

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/cloth-face-coverings/>

<https://www.ctoec.org/covid-19/supporting-children-and-families/>