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Face coverings required starting Wednesday, Sept. 22

At a special meeting on Monday, Sept. 20, the Faribault Public Schools board voted to approve the district follow the Center for Disease Control's recommendation to require indoor masking in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under these [new guidelines](#), **beginning Wednesday, Sept. 22, face coverings will be required for all students (5 and older) and staff in schools and district buildings until the Rice County COVID-19 case rate falls to below 50 cases per 100,000 residents.** The current Rice County case rate is 261.

The following face coverings are acceptable: paper or disposable masks, cloth face mask, scarf, neck gaiter, bandana, religious face covering, and medical-grade masks and respirators.

Those requesting a religious or medical exemption can contact your building administrator.

The CDC's masking recommendation is supported by Rice County Public Health and Mayo Clinic. Additionally, nearly 70 local doctors, nurse practitioners and physician assistants have endorsed indoor masking as a way to help limit the spread of COVID-19.

In addition to reviewing information provided by public health experts, the board also monitored situations in other school districts without masking requirements where outbreaks forced large numbers of students to go into quarantine. By following the CDC's masking recommendation, the board hopes Faribault Public Schools can avoid any disruptions to learning, and keep students and staff safe, healthy, and in the classroom.