

<i>Policy</i>	<i>Title</i> FACE COVERINGS	<i>Code</i> EBCFA
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HOLLISTON

The Holliston Public Schools (HPS) is committed to providing a safe environment as schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. Maintaining a safe environment is critical to the District’s ability to ensure students remain in a full-time classroom learning environment. The Holliston Public Schools will review local, state, and federal guidance as needed to inform any necessary policy and implementation changes.

According to public health experts, one of the best ways to stop the spread of coronavirus and to keep members of our school community safe is the use of face masks or face coverings. Consideration of guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), and/ or HPS and local Board of Health protocols, the following requirements are in place until further notice.

A face covering that covers the nose and mouth is strongly recommended to be worn by individuals who remain unvaccinated or are otherwise immunocompromised in school buildings, and on school grounds, even when social distancing is observed.

For all extracurricular and school-sponsored events (including athletics), we will adhere to host school and venue-specific restrictions. Member schools will need to communicate with and respect the specific protocols set forth at the local level. Anyone who chooses to wear a mask may continue to do so.

Individuals who are vaccinated are not required to wear a mask, but may do so if desired.

Students and staff returning from 5 day quarantine following a positive COVID test must follow strict mask use, other than when eating, drinking, or outside, and conduct active monitoring for symptoms, through day 10 of exposure.

Masks will be required in all school health offices.

A student’s mask or face covering is to be provided by the student’s parent/guardian(s). Staff members are responsible for providing their own face coverings. However, HPS will supply disposable face coverings for individuals who arrive at a building, or board school transportation, without one.

The Superintendent, or their designee, has the authority to change this policy based on information provided by local, state and federal agencies.

This policy will remain in place until revised or rescinded by the School Committee.

First Reading:	August 17, 2021
Second Reading:	August 20, 2021
Third Reading:	
Policy Adopted:	August 26, 2021
Policy Amended:	August 24, 2021; February 17, 2022; March 3, 2022
Policy Reviewed:	February 17, 2022
Policy Cross Reference:	JICA: Dress Code Policy
Guidance Statements:	<p>Massachusetts Department of Public Health https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-mask-requirements-mask-requirements-in-certain-locations-https://search.mass.gov/?q=school+health+offices</p> <p>Center for Disease Control and Prevention – Guidance for Covid-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools Updated January 13, 2022. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html</p> <p>Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – Fall 2021 Covid-19 Guidance Updated February 9, 2022 https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/2022-0209mask-requirement-update.pdf</p>

SOURCE: MASC – February 10, 2022