



SOUTH HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TOWN HALL – 116 MAIN STREET  
SOUTH HADLEY, MA 01075-2898  
(413) 538-5060

## **Mask Policy**

South Hadley Public Schools  
*Effective Monday, March 7, 2022*

***The School Committee reserves the right to implement the Face Covering Mandate if metrics indicate mitigation strategies be put back in place.***

The SHPS will be following the guidance from the: [Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#) (as of 3/3/22) and the [State of Massachusetts COVID-19 Mask Requirements](#) (as of 3/3/22), and [CDC Guidance on Face Masks for Public Transportation](#) (as of 3/3/22).

**In addition, the South Hadley School Committee requires the following:**

- Each student and staff member may personally decide whether or not to wear a mask within school buildings and/or on school transportation except as outlined below.
- As stated in the [mass.gov mask requirement in the healthcare facilities portion](#) (as of 3/3/22), masks must be worn in all health offices at all times.
- Please respect the personal decision of each student and staff member around mask wearing. This includes behavior upon entry and during the entirety of travel on all South Hadley Public School system transportation. Taunts and bullying based on a particular choice to wear or not wear masks will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary measures.
- SHPS is mask optional for visitors to the building, and masks will be made available for those wishing to use them upon entry.
- All students should continue to bring masks to school in the event that they need to visit the nurses office.

- If someone in your household tests positive and your child tests negative, please send your child with a mask until all members of the household test negative. Your child will be offered a mask to wear if they do not have one. We understand that we may not be aware of a family member who tests positive for COVID, and that this will require families to use the honor system.
- Although we are able to loosen the distancing parameters we have been following, as a mitigation strategy, we will still maintain three feet in classrooms and the cafeteria whenever possible.