Adopted: August 20, 2020

Revised: 2-9-2021, 6-8-2021, 9-11- 2021, 2-15-2022
Reviewed: 8-11-2025

808 COVID-19 FACE COVERING POLICY

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to recommend that employees, students, and other persons (including visitors, guests, contractors, etc.) present on school property, wear face coverings in classrooms, preschool, child care settings and other indoor areas, as well as outdoor areas where a physical distance of 6 feet cannot be maintained between persons, in order to minimize exposure to COVID-19.

II. GENERAL OF STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. The policy of the charter school is to recommend that face coverings be correctly worn by any employee, students and other persons (including visitors, guests, contractors, etc.) to help stop the spread of COVID 19 or any variants.

B. Face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer does not know they are infected.

C. Unless an exception described in Part IV below applies, all students, staff, and other people present indoors in school buildings or riding on school transportation vehicles must wear a face covering.

III. DEFINITION OF FACE COVERING

A. A face covering must be worn to cover the nose and mouth completely, should not be overly tight or restrictive, and should feel comfortable to wear. The following are included in the definition of face covering:

1. Paper or disposable mask;

2. Cloth face mask;

3. Scarf;

4. Neck gaiter;

5. Bandana;

6. Religious face covering; and

7. Medical-grade masks and respirators

B. A face shield is a clear plastic barrier that covers the face and allows visibility of facial expressions and lip movements for speech perception. A face shield should extend below the chin anteriorly, to the ears laterally, and there should be no exposed gap between the forehead and the shield's headpiece.

C. Masks that incorporate a valve designed to facilitate easy exhaling, mesh masks, or masks with openings, holes, visible gaps in the design or material, or vents are not sufficient face coverings because they allow exhaled droplets to be released into the air.

IV. EXCEPTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES; TEMPORARY REMOVAL OF FACE COVERING

A. Face coverings should not be placed on anyone under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance, or anyone who cannot tolerate a face covering due to a developmental, medical, or behavioral health condition.

B. A face shield may be used as an alternative to a face covering in the following situations:

1. A student in grades kindergarten through eighth grade may wear a face shield when wearing a face covering is problematic.

2. A teacher of any grade level may wear a face shield when wearing a face covering may impede the educational process.

3. Staff, students, or visitors who cannot tolerate a face covering due to a developmental, medical, or behavioral health condition may wear a face shield instead of a face covering.

4. Staff providing direct support student services may wear a face shield instead of a face covering when a face covering would impede the service being provided.

V. IMPLEMENTATION

A. This policy will be conspicuously posted in each school building and administrative office and communicated to students, staff, families, and potential visitors to the school building.

B. The charter school may make available distance learning to its enrolled students who may be medically vulnerable or otherwise unwilling to return to in-person or hybrid learning.

Legal References: Emergency Executive Order 20-81
Emergency Executive Order 20-82
Minn. Stat. § 12.45 (Governor's Orders and Rules, Effect)
Minn. Stat. § 12.45 (Violations; Penalties)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 807 (Health and Safety Policy)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 504 (Student Dress and Appearance)