

Health and Safety Measures for the 2021-2022 School Year

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 123B.09 vests the care, management, and control of independent districts in the school board; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Independent School District No. 832, Mahtomedi Public Schools [hereinafter the “Superintendent”] is responsible for the management of the schools, the administration of all School District policies, and is directly accountable to the School Board; and

WHEREAS, when responsibilities are not specifically prescribed nor School District policy applicable, the Superintendent shall use personal and professional judgment, subject to review by the School Board, pursuant to School District Policy 302, *Superintendent*; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and the Minnesota Department of Health (“MDH”) have determined that the COVID-19 pandemic is currently ongoing and may remain ongoing for an unknown time; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Education (“MDE”) has issued and may continue to issue written guidance for Minnesota schools on educational issues related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the MDH has issued and may continue to issue written guidance for Minnesota schools on public health issues related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent and the administration of the School District have conferred with the School Board regarding COVID-19 health and safety measures, the current CDC, MDE, and MDH requirements for each, and other relevant information; and

WHEREAS, based upon the collective consideration of these factors, the Superintendent has recommended to the School Board that the following strategies be implemented at the commencement of the 2021-2022 school year:

Face Coverings/Masks

- Face coverings are REQUIRED for all people (students, staff, and visitors) while inside our school and district buildings regardless of vaccination status.
- Face coverings are REQUIRED for all persons while on school buses. All people are required by the [CDC order](#) to wear face coverings on all public transportation conveyances (airports, public buses, etc.), including school buses.
- Face coverings are not required outdoors.
- “Face covering” means a paper or disposable mask, a cloth face mask, a scarf, a neck gaiter, or other face covering that: 1) covers the nose and mouth completely; 2) fits snugly against the face without gaps; 3) is secured over the nose and mouth; and 4) allows for breathing without restriction. Masks with exhalation valves or vents are not permitted. Single layer scarves and neck gaiters are not recommended.
- Consistent with CDC and MDH guidance, the School District’s face covering mandate does not apply to:
 - a. Individuals who cannot wear a mask or cannot safely wear a mask because of a disability as defined by state and federal law; or
 - b. Individuals for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by relevant workplace safety guidelines or federal regulations;
- Consistent with prior directives from the State of Minnesota:

- a. Staff may remove masks when working alone, including when alone in an office, classroom, vehicle, cubicle with walls at least face level when social distancing is maintained, or in other enclosed work areas;
 - b. When vaccinated staff are serving students in settings where seeing a person's lips is necessary, staff are strongly encouraged to wear a clear face mask. If they do not have access to a clear face mask, they can choose to wear a face shield and provide at least 6 feet of physical distance between themselves and the students they serve.
 - c. Staff, students, and other persons present indoors in a school setting may temporarily remove masks in the following situations:
 - i. When actively engaged in an athletic game, scrimmage, or competition subject to any rules, regulations, requirements, or guidance issued by the Minnesota State High School League for activities under its administration;
 - ii. When eating or drinking;
 - iii. During performances involving singing, acting, public speaking, or playing musical instruments that make wearing a mask difficult or impracticable; or
 - iv. In response to requests to verify an identity for lawful purposes.
- The School District will take corrective action for any violation of its Face Coverings/Mask policy. Such corrective action will be consistent with the law and regulations, School District policies and handbooks, and any relevant collective bargaining agreements.

Physical Distancing Mitigation Strategies

- A minimum of three feet of physical distancing in learning spaces will be used whenever possible.
- Outdoor spaces for learning and activities will be used whenever possible.
- Cohorts of students will be used whenever possible.
- Alternative entrances and exits in order to minimize large-scale interactions.
- Visitors and volunteers will be limited.

Cleaning and Sanitizing

- Hand washing and respiratory etiquette practices will be followed.
- Buildings and school buses will follow a regular sanitizing and cleaning schedule based on activities.

Reporting Positive Cases & Quarantines

- Students and staff should stay home when ill or showing COVID-19 symptoms as outlined in the [MDH Decision Tree](#).
- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 will be quarantined following the MDH Decision Tree.
- Unvaccinated staff and students will be quarantined following the MDH Decision Tree if there is a positive COVID-19 case in their household.
- Students who are deemed close contacts within the school setting will not be quarantined if all involved students were properly wearing masks during the close contact period.
- Families will receive notification of positive cases in their child's classroom(s).

Vaccinations

- While not required, it is highly recommended that all eligible staff and students who are present in school buildings be vaccinated against COVID-19.
- No individual will be excluded from in-person learning based solely upon that individual's vaccination status.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 832 as follows:

Section 1: The Superintendent is hereby directed to implement the following health and safety measures to open the 2021-2022 school year:

Face Coverings/Masks

- Face coverings are REQUIRED for all people (students, staff, and visitors) while inside our school and district buildings regardless of vaccination status.
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 - a. Staff may remove masks when working alone, including when alone in an office, classroom, vehicle, cubicle with walls at least face level when social distancing is maintained, or in other enclosed work areas;
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Section 2: The Superintendent is hereby authorized, after consultation with the School Board Chair and notification to the School Board, to select and implement different health and safety measures for the School District or any specific school buildings without School Board action if the Superintendent reasonably believes that prompt implementation of different health and safety measures is necessary, and that constraints of time and public health considerations render it impractical to hold a School Board meeting to approve the implementation. The health and safety measures selected and implemented by the Superintendent shall continue in effect unless and until the School Board, in consultation with the Superintendent and appropriate school district staff and public health officials, deems it in the best interest of the School District and its students to implement different health and safety measures.

Section 3: The Superintendent monitors district and community data and regularly consults with local public health. The Superintendent will provide regular updates to the School Board. The School Board will regularly review and consider local and community data and the School District's efforts to implement COVID-19 related educational and public health guidance issued by the MDE and the MDH, respectively.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2021.

Roll Call Vote

School Board Chair

School Board Clerk