

## **FACIAL COVERINGS ACTION TAKEN BY THE STURGEON BAY BOARD OF EDUCATION ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2021**

“To require that all staff, students, and visitors wear a facial covering when indoors on school property just before, during, and just after student school instruction time/days and while being transported in school buses and other school vehicles effective Monday, September 20, 2021.

The face coverings section, implementation section, student exceptions section, staff exceptions section and enforcement section of the 2020-2021 Board Approved Facial Covering Resolution are applicable to this motion.

The Board must determine, no later than October 21, the metrics we will use to end the facial covering requirement. However, if Door County moves to the medium or low COVID-19 Case Activity level as reported by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the Board must hold a special meeting within 10 business days to evaluate possible changes or elimination of this facial covering requirement. And the added exemption also applies to Sturgeon Bay faculty and staff.”

*The motion passed 5-4 at approximately 11:30 P.M.*

Face coverings must:

- Fully cover the mouth, nose, and chin and fit snugly
- Be held secure through a tie, elastic, etc. to prevent slipping
- Not create difficulty breathing while worn
- Meet the requirements of the appropriate dress code policies and/or codes of conduct. (Board Policy 3216, 4216, and 5511)

Implementation:

- Face coverings must be worn indoors at all times by students, staff, and visitors, except as otherwise provided herein.
- No face coverings will be required while eating or drinking.
- No face coverings will be required while outdoors, if social distancing of at least six (6) feet between individuals is maintained.
- Students who forget or lose their mask will be provided a mask by the School District.
- Alternative options or accommodations will be considered where an individual has a medical condition, mental health condition, intellectual or developmental disability, or other sensory sensitivities that prevent the individual from wearing a face covering.

Student Exceptions:

- Individuals who have trouble breathing may be exempt.
- Individuals who are unable to remove the face covering without assistance may be exempt.
- Children younger than 2 years old will be exempt.
- Individuals may be exempted from this requirement by a school administrator due to a documented medical condition, mental health condition, intellectual or developmental disability, or other sensory sensitivities that prevent the individual from wearing a face covering.
- In instances where facial coverings will significantly interfere with the teaching or learning process, an exemption may be made. This may apply to students who are deaf or hard of

hearing, students receiving speech/language services, young students in early education programs, and English-language learners.

- Exemptions may be made when engaging in work where a face covering would create a risk to the individual, as determined by governmental safety guidelines.

#### Staff Exceptions:

- Individuals who have trouble breathing may be exempt.
- Individuals who are unable to remove the face covering without assistance may be exempt.
- Individuals working alone in a personal office or other non-shared space may be exempt.
- Individuals who have a documented medical condition, mental health condition, intellectual or developmental disability, or other sensory sensitivities that prevent the individual from wearing a face covering may be exempt.
- In instances where facial coverings will significantly interfere with the teaching or learning process, an exemption may be made. This exemption may apply to staff who are communicating with students who are deaf or hard of hearing, students receiving speech/language services, young students in early education programs, and English-language learners.
- When engaging in work where a face covering would create a risk to the individual, as determined by governmental safety guidelines, an exemption may be made.

#### Enforcement:

- The District will have face coverings available to provide to individuals.
- Non-compliance by a student will result in the following progression:
  1. Conference(s) with the building principal or designee
  2. Written warning
  3. Move to off-site virtual instruction for a period of time
- Unless otherwise excused or exempted, failure of an employee to wear a face covering as required herein will subject the employee to discipline.
- Visitors refusing to wear a face covering will be denied access to school property.

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#### **Additional information about the exception referenced at the end of the motion that also will apply to faculty and staff.**

The reference is derived from page 11, paragraph three, of the [COVID-19 Infection Control and Mitigation Measures for Wisconsin Schools 2021/2022 \(August 10, 2021\)](#) in the paragraph below. **While the guidance includes the exception in masked settings for students, the Board has extended this exemption to faculty and staff.** This is not only because the same requirements will apply to students as well as faculty and staff, but because it would not help our community to have students be able to stay in the classroom when we don't have a teacher for that classroom.

*“Note the CDC and DHS guidelines for the 2021-2022 school year include the added [exception in the close contact definition](#) for students in K-12 indoor classrooms who are within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well fitting masks the entire time. This exception applies in the classroom. . .”*