

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire
CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Policy Committee

Wednesday, August 19, 2020
5:00 p.m.

Physical Location: None

Virtual Location:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82636381555?pwd=eDIUMlJlWFJSUzRkWDBEL1BXMUFOZz09>

Meeting ID: 826 3638 1555

Passcode: GPXX46

Phone: +1 312 626 6799 US

Meeting ID: 826 3638 1555

Password: 458252

Agenda

School Board Committee Members:

- Katherine Heck
- Janine Lesser
- Kevin Pobst
- Tim Theberge
- Stephen Ullman

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Accept Minutes of August 11, 2020
3. Review Policy:
 - DFA: Investment
4. Develop mask/social distance policy
 - a. Emergency Policy on Personal Protective Measures: Face Masks and Cloth Face Coverings
5. Review of policy suspension/changes/blanket approach to support school health and safety
6. Other
7. Adjourn

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Policy Committee

Tuesday, August 11, 2020
5:00 p.m.

Physical Location: ConVal High School Library
184 Hancock Rd., Peterborough, NH

Virtual Location:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81786496891?pwd=UjJLR2NRMjJsY1RYSmZtd2xleVFkQT09>

Meeting ID: **817 8649 6891**

Password: **6yPhAC**

Phone: +1 312 626 6799 US

Meeting ID: **817 8649 6891**

Password: **212782**

Minutes

School Board Committee Members:

- Katherine Heck
- Janine Lesser
- Kevin Pobst
- Tim Theberge
- Stephen Ullman

Present: Janine Lesser, Katherine Heck, Kevin Pobst, Tim Theberge, Stephen Ullman, Dr. Kimberly Saunders

1. Call Meeting to Order

Janine Lesser called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

2. Accept Minutes of July 21, 2020

Katherine Heck moved to accept the minutes of July 21, 2020. Stephen Ullman second. Unanimous.

3. DFEA: Free Admissions

Katherine Heck suggested creating a list of policies that might be suspended under one blanket policy and take the suspensions off as they become appropriate.

Tim Theberge said that this policy talks about free admission and not permitting the public to show up for anything. All this says is that we don't charge admission for those 65 and above.

Janine Lesser asked if Katherine's proposal for one blanket policy of suspended policies is a good idea. For some of these policies, they don't need to be suspended, they need to be added to.

The Policy Committee decided to leave this policy, DFEA, as is.

Kevin Pobst said that if the concern had been that the policy discussed invites people to the district, it would be agreeable to suspend.

Janine Lesser said that as we go through this list, those policies identified for suspension will be detailed as such.

EBBD: Indoor Air Quality

Tim Theberge said that this talks about the emissions of vehicles. We are adding new filters and ionization systems but COVID does not impact emissions.

This policy will remain intact as agreed upon by the committee.

EBCB: Fire Drills

Janine Lesser asked if we would still carry out fire drills. Kimberly Saunders said that we are required to do so by law.

The committee decided that policy this will remain in place as is.

EBCD: Emergency Closings

Janine Lesser said that this policy looks perfect. It delivers exactly what the Superintendent needs.

No change to this policy was agreed upon.

EBCE: School Closings

Katherine Heck said that this policy is very weather related. Does it need to be expanded? Taking the word "weather" out might be considered.

Janine Lesser said that it is missing a reference to social media.

Other situations might be added to refer to conditions other than weather. Using "when conditions..." was suggested.

Kimberly Saunders agreed to make necessary changes and bring this policy back.

ECA: Buildings and Grounds Security

Adding "...or a contracted service provider" was suggested. Agreed.

"Security personnel" was suggested.

EEAA: Video Surveillance on School Property

The committee agreed that this policy should remain in place as is.

EEAB: Video and Audio Recording for Instructional and Professional Development Purposes

Discussion on this policy was set aside.

EEAG: Use of Private Vehicles to Transport Students and for Other School Purposes

Kimberly said that this policy might be one to suspend. How a child gets to school is complicated. If we want people to transport their own children or in small groups, this policy should be suspended.

Kimberly agreed.

Kevin asked if the entire policy should be suspended or if the second paragraph still has application.

Kimberly said that we might state that anyone (staff) who is transporting students might be required to provide evidence of insurance. Kimberly agreed to look into further.

JFAB: Admission and Tuition of Nonresident Students

Kimberly Saunders asked the committee if they want to bring in any additional tuition students. She has said no to bringing in any foreign exchange students for this year.

Staff members have asked if they can bring their children here this year.

The policy states that "The Superintendent shall establish criteria for the admission of nonresident students"

More discussion in non-public session.

JHCC: Communicable Disease Control Policy

Janine Lesser said that this is where the mask requirement might fit in.

Four RSA's reference this. Changes to reflect RSA references and additional changes to pronouns will be incorporated.

JIC: Student Conduct

Kimberly Saunders said that she included this policy but not see any changes needed.

Tim Theberge said that it references rules, and mask requirements will be part of our rules.

JICC: Student Conduct on School Buses

No changes needed.

Is the authority of bus drivers supported further? Kimberly Saunders said that if students do not follow the direction of the bus driver, the student is written up and it is provided to the principal. It is handled as a discipline issue between the school and the parent.

Bus rules should be sent home in support of this policy, paragraph four.

An addendum could be written to support this policy and sent home to families.

JICD: Student Discipline and Due Process

Should consequences be identified in the handbook for not wearing masks? Kimberly said that if a student does not come to school with a mask and does not want to comply, they have the option to educate remotely.

A rule in every handbook that references that masks will be required until which time the emergency order has been lifted could be stated.

It will be made explicit in the addendum.

Kevin Pobst said that if we want these policies to no longer need further adjustment, we could say “anytime there is an emergency such as.....”. It was agreed that “when conditions warrant” language was appropriate. It will be included in the addendum to the handbook.

Stephen Ullman said that some would never declare a State of Emergency under any condition.

Kevin Pobst said that language around public health emergencies might be included.

A broad policy might be considered to allow overlap.

For refusal to conform to “School” rules under D was added.

Tim Theberge said that dress code refers to the handbook and the handbook talks about clothing. Do masks constitute clothing? Masks have graphics. Kimberly said that they are included.

Kimberly Saunders will follow up.

KF: Community Use of Schools

It was suggested to suspend this policy until further notice. We can’t arbitrarily have some groups use the schools and not others.

The committee agreed. Use of schools for community use was agreed for suspension and a vote of the board.

KFA: Public Conduct on School Property

Kimberly suggested that language saying that “failure to follow the direction of school personnel...” might be included.

Should we be explicit and say “Masks required”?

The policy authorizes administration directive.

No changes needed to this policy.

Stating that the mask requirement applies to all areas. KFA, JHCC, JICC, JICD should be cross referenced in the mask requirement.

KI: Visitors in Schools

Kimberly said that this policy should be suspended. We will not have visitors in schools.

If a parent wants to come to the school to pick up their child or meet with the teacher, how would that take place? They would ring the bell, identify themselves, but not enter the building.

Katherine Heck said that the first paragraph could be suspended. The intent is not so that parents can't speak to teachers or principals. We are not looking to alienate parents.

A policy that is equitable across schools is needed.

Kevin Pobst said that if we suspend it we are not applying clear guidance. Agreed.

Clarifying this across all schools was agreed upon.

"It will be the practice of buildings not to admit visitors until the School Board....." was suggested.

"If a person needs to contact anyone in the building, they need to go through "X".

Kimberly Saunders agreed to work on this policy and bring it back.

Kimberly Saunders referenced "Emergency Policy on Personal Protective Measures".

Call letters would be assigned. This will be reviewed and brought forward for consideration. This is a PPE Social Distancing Pandemic Transmission Measures policy.

4. Other

None.

5. Adjourn

Katherine Heck motioned to adjourn at 6:13 p.m. Kevin Pobst second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok

DFA – Investment

The School Board authorizes the School District Treasurer working in conjunction with the Superintendent and his/her designee and pursuant to RSA 197:23-a to invest the funds of the

District subject to the following objectives and standards of care.

Objectives

The three objectives of investment activities shall be safety, liquidity, and yield.

1. Safety of principal is the foremost objective in this policy. Investments shall be undertaken in

a manner that seeks to ensure the preservation of capital by mitigating credit and interest rate risk. This will be accomplished by limiting the type of the investments and institutions to those stipulated by statute and fully covered by FDIC insurance or collateral approved pursuant to applicable law.

2. Liquidity of the investment portfolio shall remain sufficient to meet all operating requirements that may be reasonably anticipated.

3. The investment portfolio shall be designed with the objective of attaining a market rate of return throughout budgetary and economic cycles, taking into account the investment risk constraints and liquidity needs. Return on investment is of secondary importance compared to the safety and liquidity objectives described above.

Investment

Instruments

Funds shall be invested in accord with the standards set forth in RSA 197:23-a. Investment maturities for operating funds shall be scheduled to coincide with projected cash flow needs, taking into account large routine expenditures (payroll and accounts payable) as well as anticipated revenues.

Competitive Selection of Investment Instruments

Before investing any excess funds in investment instruments, with the exception of United States

Treasury securities maturing in less than one year, a competitive bid process shall be conducted by

the District Treasurer, the Superintendent, or his/her designee.

Bids shall be requested from qualified financial institutions for various options with regard to terms and instrument. The District Treasurer, Superintendent, his/her designee shall accept the

bid(s) that provide(s) the highest rate of return, within the maturity required, and within the parameters of this policy, taking into consideration all associated costs, requirements, and capabilities.

Standards of Care

1. Prudence: The standard of prudence to be used by the District Treasurer and Superintendent or his/her designee involved in the investment process shall be the "prudent person" standard and shall be applied in the context of managing an overall portfolio. They are directed to use the GFOA (Government Financial Officers Association). Recommended

2. Practices and Policy Statements Related to Cash Management as a guide to the prudent investment of public funds.

Ethics and Conflicts of Interest: The School District Treasurer and Superintendent or his/her designee involved in the investment process shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with the proper execution and management of the investment program or that could impair their ability to make impartial decisions.

Employees and Investment officials shall disclose any material interests in financial institutions with which they conduct business. They shall further disclose any personal financial institutions with which they conduct business.

They shall further disclose any personal financial/investment positions that could be related to the performance of the investment portfolio. Employees and officials shall subordinate their personal investment transactions to those of the School District, particularly with regard to the timing of purchases and sales.

3. Internal Controls: The District Treasurer and Superintendent or his/her designee shall establish a system of internal controls that shall be documented in writing. The internal controls shall be reviewed by the School Board and an independent auditor.

The investment of funds will be left to the discretion of the Superintendent or his/her designee without prior approval of the Board.

Legal Reference:

Per the District's Financial Advisors/Auditors, this policy must be readopted annually. RSA 197:23-a, IV

Category: P

1st Read: June 18, 2019

2nd Read: July 23, 2019

Adoption: July 23, 2019

< DEA - Revenues From Local Tax Sources

DFA - Free Admissions (<https://schoolboard.convalsd.net/district-policies/dfea-free-admissions/>)

**Emergency Policy on Personal Protective Measures:
Face Masks and Cloth Face Coverings**

Findings

As recently as July 17, 2020 the Governor extended the State of Emergency declared in Executive Order 2020-04 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The extension has declared that: the Center for Disease Control [“CDC”] reports that COVID-19 is spread mainly from person to person, that COVID-19 is currently spreading very easily and sustainably, that COVID-19 is spreading more efficiently than influenza, and that the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to COVID-19 by taking the following steps:

- Maintain good social distance (about 6 feet);
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, and if soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol;
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces; and
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face covering when around others.

The Board makes the same findings, that COVID-19 is easily spread from person to person and that the steps recommended by the Governor are reasonable measures to be taken by community members, staff and students to reduce the risk of a debilitating and potentially deadly disease.

The Board finds that within the _____ School District bounds there have been persons who have tested positive for the Coronavirus. The citizens of the District also travel outside of the geographic bounds of the district and interact with citizens both within and outside the state. _____ also has a significant number of citizens from other states stopping within _____ as they travel to other destinations. The suburban nature of _____ increases the necessity for protective measures to prevent the hazard of contagion and spread of the virus.

The Board also finds that remote learning has not been as effective a tool for educating students in the _____ School District as in-person education in the schools and that second to student and community safety, it is important that the District reopen its schools to students as soon as prudently possible.

The congregation of students and staff in school buildings presents an increased risk of exposure to, and spread of, COVID-19. The proper use of medical masks and even cloth face coverings can reduce the hazards presented by educating students within a building and will allow for broader educational access to in-person instruction. The failure to use a mask or face covering in the context of a school creates a hazard to the individual who declines to use the mask and a hazard to others who are proximate to the student/staff member.

The District has a duty to provide for the health and sanitation of its schools. See NH RSA 194:3, VIII. This duty includes “the daily administration and provision of educational services to students at the

school facility including . . . staff, student and parent safety. . .” See RSA 194-C:4, II(j). These requirements are reiterated in state regulations.

State law mandates that “[w]henver any student exhibits symptoms of contagion or is a hazard to himself or others, he shall be excluded from the classroom and his parents or guardians shall be notified as soon as possible.” See NH RSA 200:39 (emphasis added).

The Board finds that scientific research has emerged that students age ten (10) and above present the same risk of viral spread as adults. To some extent there may be reduced risk of viral spread by students below the age of ten (10).

Mask and Face Covering Requirements

On the basis of these findings, the Board implements the following policy directives:

General Requirements

All staff shall wear medical masks or cloth face coverings in the school building and on campus when they are less than six (6) feet from another person or moving in common corridors.

Classes shall be configured so that when possible, educators may be able to have a socially distanced location in the room for general instruction.

All visitors on campus shall be required to don a mask when they are less than six (6) feet from another person or moving in common corridors.

No person, including a student shall be required to wear a mask if their disability or a medical condition prevents them from doing such.

Staff (including contracted service providers) who work with deaf students or hard of hearing students, students learning to read, and students who rely on lip reading shall wear clear masks which enhance service provision.

The District shall endeavor to maintain a supply of masks for students and staff who do have access to a mask or cloth face covering.

The CDC guidelines on masks and cloth face coverings shall be made available to all staff.

Masks shall not be required during outdoor recess or outdoor physical education provided social distancing is in place.

Kindergarten through Third grade

All students in Kindergarten through grade 3 shall be taught the proper use of a mask. Students in Kindergarten through grade 3 shall not be required to wear a mask or face covering but shall be encouraged to wear a mask when social distancing is less than six (6) feet. Nothing herein shall prohibit a parent from requiring that their child wear a mask, however enforcing that requirement shall be the responsibility of that child’s parent. Parents of students in Kindergarten through Third grade shall inform the District in writing if they do not wish their child to wear a mask.

Any student who is deemed by school staff to present a risk of contagion or a health hazard to themselves or others by virtue of not wearing a mask shall be removed from the classroom setting or not permitted to enter the classroom setting and the parents shall be required to pick up their child. See NH RSA 200:39

Fourth grade through twelfth grade

All students in Fourth grade through twelfth grade shall be required to wear a mask or face covering in the following circumstances:

- When entering or exiting a school building;
- When in the corridors or transitioning from class-to-class;
- When they are less than six (6) feet from another person;
- When on a school bus or other student transportation; and
- In such other settings and environments as the building principal deems appropriate provided the students have been notified of the requirement.

Any student in the circumstances listed above who is not wearing a mask shall be asked to wear a mask. Any student who is wearing a mask in an improper fashion shall be asked to wear their mask properly, that is, safely covering both mouth and nose. Any student who refuses to do such, shall be deemed a health hazard to themselves and others, shall be removed from the school building, their parent/guardian shall be contacted and required to take their child unless and until such time as they are willing to comply with the face mask or cloth covering requirement. See NH RSA 200:39.

Duration

This is a temporary policy based on a health emergency. This policy shall remain in place until such time as the Governor rescinds his Emergency Order, modifies his order to eliminate the face mask recommendation, or the Board determines that there is no longer a substantial risk that unmasked persons will present a hazard to themselves or others in the school setting, whichever event is the latter. The Board shall review this policy regularly to determine whether it remains appropriate.

Legal References

NH RSA 194:3, VIII, Powers of Districts, available at:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/194/194-3.htm>

NH RSA 194-C:4, II(j), Superintendent Services, available at:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/194-C/194-C-4.htm>

NH RSA 200:39, Exclusion from School, available at:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/200/200-39.htm>

Emergency Order #2020-04_, available at:

<https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/documents/2020-04.pdf>

Emergency Order #2020- 15, available at:

<https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/documents/executive-order-2020-5.pdf>

Other References

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/cloth-face-cover.htm>

[Pediatrics, Klara M. Posfay-Barbe, Noemie Wagner, Magali Gauthey, Dehlia Moussaoui, Natasha Loevy, Alessandro Diana and Arnaud G. L'Huillier, "COVID-19 in Children and the Dynamics of Infection in Families," \(July 2020\).](#)

“Second Policy to Follow Kimberly’s Policy”

Emergency Policy on Personal Protective Measures: Use of Face Masks and Cloth Face Coverings During Epidemic or Pandemic Outbreaks

Findings

There have been various viral pandemics throughout the history of humanity. The first “modern” pandemic occurred with the Influenza Pandemic of 1918. Much of our understanding of how to respond to pandemics came from the various responses implemented during that time. Since then, there have been other viral pandemics such as H1N1, SARS and MERS that spread, primarily, from person-to-person contact or exposure. There are also local epidemic outbreaks that may require action at the state or local level. The overwhelming scientific evidences shows that there are certain actions that can be taken to minimize exposure and reduce community transmission of these viruses. Those actions are:

As recently as July 17, 2020 the Governor extended the State of Emergency declared in Executive Order 2020-04 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The extension has declared that: the Center for Disease Control [“CDC”] reports that COVID-19 is spread mainly from person to person, that COVID- 19 is currently spreading very easily and sustainably, that COVID-19 is spreading more efficiently than influenza, and that the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to COVID-19 by taking the following steps:

- Close schools when an epidemic or pandemic affects the community;
- Maintain good social physical distance (about 6 feet) in schools and when out in public;
- Avoid large social gatherings;
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, and if soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol;
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces; and
- Cover your mouth and nose with a mask or with a cloth face covering when around others.

Viral pandemics are The Board makes the same findings, that COVID-19 is easily spread from person to person. and that the steps Steps recommended by qualified medical professionals the Governor are reasonable measures to be taken by community members, staff, and students to reduce the risk of a debilitating, and potentially deadly, diseases.

The Board finds that within the School District bounds there have been persons who have tested positive for the Coronavirus. The citizens of the District also travel outside of the geographic bounds of the district and interact with citizens both within and outside the state.

also has a significant number of citizens from other states stopping within as they travel to other destinations. The suburban nature of increases the necessity for protective measures to prevent the hazard of contagion and spread of the virus.

The Board also finds that although remote learning has not been an as effective a tool for educating students, in the School District as an in-person education in the schools, second only to and that second to student and community safety, it is vitally important to our that the District students, our staff, and our community, and is the overwhelmingly preferred method of instruction. reopen its schools to students as soon as prudently possible.

The congregation of students and staff in school buildings presents an increased risk of exposure to, and spread of viruses, COVID-19. The proper use of medical masks and even cloth face coverings can reduce the hazards presented by educating students within a building and will allow for broader educational access to

in-person instruction. The failure to use a mask or face covering in the context of a school creates a hazard to the individual who declines to use the mask and a hazard to others who are proximate to the student/staff member.

The District has a duty to provide for the health and sanitation of its schools. See NH RSA 194:3, VIII. This duty includes “the daily administration and provision of educational services to students at the school facility including . . . staff, student and parent safety. . .” See RSA 194-C:4, II(j). These requirements are reiterated in state regulations.

State law mandates that “[w]henver any student exhibits symptoms of contagion or is a hazard to himself or others, he shall be excluded from the classroom and his parents or guardians shall be notified as soon as possible.” See NH RSA 200:39 (emphasis added).

The Board finds that scientific research has emerged that masks reduce the risk of viral exposure from person-to-person, especially for those ten (10) years of age and older. Students age ten (10) and above present the same risk of viral spread as adults. To some extent there may be reduced risk of viral spread by students below the age of ten (10).

Mask and Face Covering Requirements

On the basis of these findings, the Board may implement any or all of the following policy directives when epidemic or pandemic conditions are present or upon the recommendation by qualified medical professionals. . : The Board will communicate the status of these requirements to students, parents/guardians, staff, and the community.

General Requirements

All staff shall wear medical masks or cloth face coverings in the school building and on campus when they are less than six (6) feet from another person or moving in common corridors.

Classes shall be configured so that when possible, educators may be able to have a socially distanced location in the room for general instruction.

All visitors on campus shall be required to don a mask when they are less than six (6) feet from another person or moving in common corridors.

No person, including a student shall be required to wear a mask if their disability or a verified medical condition prevents them from doing such. A valid medical condition must be verified by documentation provided by an MD or DO.

Staff (including contracted service providers) who work with deaf students or hard of hearing students, students learning to read, and students who rely on lip reading shall wear clear masks which enhance service provision.

The District shall endeavor to maintain a supply of masks for students and staff who do have access to a mask or cloth face covering.

The CDC guidelines on masks and cloth face coverings shall be made available to all staff.

Masks shall not be required during outdoor recess or outdoor physical education provided social distancing is in place.

So called “gaiter” or “neck gaiters” made of fleece are not appropriate face coverings for purposes of this policy, as research suggests that wearing such a covering may actually be worse than wearing no face covering at all.

Kindergarten through Third grade

All students in Kindergarten through grade 3 shall be taught the proper use of a mask. Students in Kindergarten through grade 3 shall not be required to wear a mask or face covering but shall be encouraged to wear a mask when social distancing is less than six (6) feet. Nothing herein shall prohibit a parent from requiring that their child wear a mask, however enforcing that requirement shall be the responsibility of that child's parent. Parents of students in Kindergarten through Third grade shall inform the District in writing if they do not wish their child to wear a mask.

Any student who is deemed by school staff to present a risk of contagion or a health hazard to themselves or others by virtue of not wearing a mask shall be removed from the classroom setting or not permitted to enter the classroom setting and the parents shall be required to pick up their child. See NH RSA 200:39

Fourth grade through twelfth grade

All students in Fourth grade through twelfth grade shall be required to wear a mask or face covering in the following circumstances:

- When entering or exiting a school building;
- When in the corridors or transitioning from class-to-class;
- When they are less than six (6) feet from another person;
- When on a school bus or other student transportation; and
- In such other settings and environments as the building principal deems appropriate provided the students have been notified of the requirement.

Any student in the circumstances listed above who is not wearing a mask shall be asked to wear a mask. Any student who is wearing a mask in an improper fashion shall be asked to wear their mask properly, that is, safely covering both mouth and nose. Any student who refuses to do such, shall be deemed a health hazard to themselves and others, shall be removed from the school building, their parent/guardian shall be contacted and required to take their child unless and until such time as they are willing to comply with the face mask or cloth covering requirement. See NH RSA 200:39.

Duration

This is a temporary policy based on a health emergency. This policy shall remain in place until such time as the Governor rescinds his Emergency Order, modifies his order to eliminate the face mask recommendation, or the Board determines that there is no longer a substantial risk that unmasked persons will present a hazard to themselves or others in the school setting, whichever event is the latter. The Board shall review this policy regularly to determine whether it remains appropriate.

Legal References

NH RSA 194:3, VIII, Powers of Districts, available at:
<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/194/194-3.htm>

NH RSA 194-C:4, II(j), Superintendent Services, available at:
<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/194-C/194-C-4.htm>

NH RSA 200:39, Exclusion from School, available at:
<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/200/200-39.htm>

Emergency Order #2020-04_, available at:

<https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/documents/2020-04.pdf>

Emergency Order #2020- 15, available at:

<https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/documents/executive-order-2020-5.pdf>

Other References

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/cloth-face-cover.htm>

Pediatrics, Klara M. Posfay-Barbe, Noemie Wagner, Magali Gauthey, Dehlia Moussaoui, Natasha Loevy, Alessandro Diana and Arnaud G. L'Huillier, "COVID-19 in Children and the Dynamics of Infection in Families," (July 2020).

Emergency Policy on Personal Protective Measures:

Use of Face Masks and Cloth Face Coverings

During Epidemic or Pandemic Outbreaks

Findings

There have been various viral pandemics throughout the history of humanity. The first “modern” pandemic occurred with the Influenza Pandemic of 1918. Much of our understanding of how to respond to pandemics came from the various responses implemented during that time. Since then, there have been other viral pandemics such as H1N1, SARS and MERS that spread, primarily, from person-to-person contact or exposure. There are also local epidemic outbreaks that may require action at the state or local level. The overwhelming scientific evidences shows that there are certain actions that can be taken to minimize exposure and reduce community transmission of these viruses. Those actions are:

As recently as July 17, 2020 the Governor extended the State of Emergency declared in Executive Order 2020-04 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The extension has declared that: the Center for Disease Control [“CDC”] reports that COVID-19 is spread mainly from person to person, that COVID-19 is currently spreading very easily and sustainably, that COVID-19 is spreading more efficiently than influenza, and that the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to COVID-19 by taking the following steps:

- Close schools when an epidemic or pandemic affects the community;
- Maintain good ~~social~~ physical distance (about 6 feet) in schools and when out in public;
- Avoid large social gatherings;
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, and if soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol;
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces; and
- Cover your mouth and nose with a mask or with a cloth face covering when around others.

Viral pandemics are ~~The Board makes the same findings, that COVID-19 is~~ easily spread from person to person, ~~and that the steps~~ Steps recommended by qualified medical professionals the Governor are reasonable measures to be taken by community members, staff, and students to reduce the risk of ~~a~~ debilitating, and potentially deadly, diseases.

The Board finds that within the _____ School District bounds there have been persons who have tested positive for the Coronavirus. The citizens of the District also travel outside of the geographic bounds of the district and interact with citizens both within and outside the state. _____ also has a significant number of citizens from other states stopping within _____ as they travel to other destinations. The suburban nature of _____ increases the necessity for protective measures to prevent the hazard of contagion and spread of the virus.

The Board ~~also~~ finds that although remote learning ~~has not been~~ can be an as effective a tool for educating students, ~~in the _____ School District as an~~ in-person education in the schools, second only to - and that second to student and community safety, ~~it is~~ vitaly important to our that the District students, our staff, and our community, and is the overwhelmingly preferred method of instruction. reopen its schools to students as soon as prudently possible.

The congregation of students and staff in school buildings presents an increased risk of exposure to, and spread of ~~viruses, COVID-19~~. The proper use of medical masks and ~~even~~ cloth face coverings can reduce the hazards presented by educating students within a building and will allow for broader educational access to in-person instruction. The failure to use a mask or face covering in the context of a school creates a hazard to the individual who declines to use the mask and a hazard to others who are proximate to the student/staff member.

The District has a duty to provide for the health and sanitation of its schools. See NH RSA 194:3, VIII. This duty includes “the daily administration and provision of educational services to students at the school facility including . . . staff, student and parent safety. . .” See RSA 194-C:4, II(j). These requirements are reiterated in state regulations.

State law mandates that “[w]henver any student exhibits symptoms of contagion or is a hazard to himself or others, he shall be excluded from the classroom and his parents or guardians shall be notified as soon as possible.” See NH RSA 200:39 (emphasis added).

The Board finds that scientific research has emerged that masks reduce the risk of viral exposure from person-to-person, especially for those ten (10) years of age and older students age ten (10) and above present the same risk of viral spread as adults. To some extent there may be reduced risk of viral spread by students below the age of ten (10).

Mask and Face Covering Requirements

On the basis of these findings, the Board may implements any or all of the the following policy directives when epidemic or pandemic conditions are present or upon the recommendation by qualified medical professionals. . . The Board will communicate the status of these requirements to students, parents/guardians, staff, and the community.

General Requirements

All staff shall wear medical masks or cloth face coverings in the school building and on campus when they are less than six (6) feet from another person or moving in common corridors.

Classes shall be configured so that when possible, educators may be able to have a socially distanced location in the room for general instruction.

All visitors on campus shall be required to don a mask when they are less than six (6) feet from another person or moving in common corridors.

No person, including a student shall be required to wear a mask if their disability or a verified medical condition prevents them from doing such. A valid medical condition must be verified by documentation provided by an MD or DO.

Staff (including contracted service providers) who work with deaf students or hard of hearing students, students learning to read, and students who rely on lip reading shall wear clear masks which enhance service provision.

The District shall endeavor to maintain a supply of masks for students and staff who do have

access to a mask or cloth face covering.

~~The CDC guidelines on masks and cloth face coverings shall be made available to all staff.~~

Masks shall not be required during outdoor recess or outdoor physical education provided social distancing is in place.

So called "gaiter" or "neck gaiters" made of fleece are not appropriate face coverings for purposes of this policy, as research suggests that wearing such a covering may actually be worse than wearing no face covering at all.

Kindergarten through Third grade

All students in Kindergarten through grade 3 shall be taught the proper use of a mask. Students in Kindergarten through grade 3 shall not be required to wear a mask or face covering but shall be encouraged to wear a mask when social distancing is less than six (6) feet. Nothing herein shall prohibit a parent from requiring that their child wear a mask, however enforcing that requirement shall be the responsibility of that child's parent. Parents of students in Kindergarten through Third grade shall inform the District in writing if they do not wish their child to wear a mask.

Any student who is deemed by school staff to present a risk of contagion or a health hazard to themselves or others by virtue of not wearing a mask shall be removed from the classroom setting or not permitted to enter the classroom setting and the parents shall be required to pick up their child. See NH RSA 200:39

Fourth grade through twelfth grade

All students in Fourth grade through twelfth grade shall be required to wear a mask or face covering in the following circumstances:

- When entering or exiting a school building;
- When in the corridors or transitioning from class-to-class;
- When they are less than six (6) feet from another person;
- When on a school bus or other student transportation; and
- In such other settings and environments as the building principal deems appropriate provided the students have been notified of the requirement.

Any student in the circumstances listed above who is not wearing a mask shall be asked to wear a mask. Any student who is wearing a mask in an improper fashion shall be asked to wear their mask properly, that is, safely covering both mouth and nose. Any student who refuses to do such, shall be deemed a health hazard to themselves and others, shall be removed from the school building, their parent/guardian shall be contacted and required to take their child unless and until such time as they are willing to comply with the face mask or cloth covering requirement. See NH RSA 200:39.

Duration

This is a temporary policy based on a health emergency. This policy shall remain in place until such time as the Governor rescinds his Emergency Order, modifies his order to eliminate the face mask recommendation, or the Board determines that there is no longer a substantial risk that unmasked persons will present a hazard to themselves or others in the school setting, whichever event is the latter. The Board shall review this policy regularly to determine whether it remains appropriate.

Legal References

NH RSA 194:3, VIII, Powers of Districts, available at:
<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/194/194-3.htm>

NH RSA 194-C:4, II(j), Superintendent Services, available at:
<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/194-C/194-C-4.htm>

NH RSA 200:39, Exclusion from School, available at:
<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/200/200-39.htm>

Emergency Order #2020-04_, available at:
<https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/documents/2020-04.pdf>

Emergency Order #2020- 15, available at:

<https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/documents/executive-order-2020-5.pdf>

Other References

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/cloth-face-cover.htm>

[Pediatrics, Klara M. Posfay-Barbe, Noemie Wagner, Magali Gauthey, Dehlia Moussaoui, Natasha Loevy, Alessandro Diana and Arnaud G. L'Huillier, "COVID-19 in Children and the Dynamics of Infection in Families," \(July 2020\).](#)