

1 Great Falls School District

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3 **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

4

5 Pandemic Emergency Measures

1905

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7 Student, Staff, and Community Health and Safety

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9 The District has adopted the protocols outlined in this policy during the terms of the declared
10 public health emergency to ensure the safe and healthy delivery of education services provided to
11 students on school property in accordance with Policy 1906, and a safe workplace when staff are
12 present on school property in accordance with Policy 1909, and the safety, health and well-being
13 of parents and community members. The Superintendent or designees are authorized to
14 implement or remove necessary health and safety protocols in coordination with state and local
15 health officials. The Superintendent is directed to brief the Board regularly concerning the
16 District's COVID-19 protocols, including masking requirements.

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18 Symptoms of Illness

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20 Students and staff who are ill, diagnosed as ill, or otherwise demonstrating symptoms of illness
21 must not come to school or work. Students who have a fever or are exhibiting other signs of
22 illness must be isolated in a designated area until such time as parents or caregiver may arrive at
23 the school to retrieve the ill student. All surfaces and areas should be thoroughly cleaned and
24 disinfected once the student has vacated the area by staff utilizing safety measures in accordance
25 with state and/or local health standards as applicable. Students may engage in alternative
26 delivery of education services during the period of illness or be permitted to make up work in
27 accordance with District Policy 1906. Staff members will be provided access to leave in
28 accordance with District Policy 1911 or the applicable Master Contract or Memorandum of
29 Understanding.

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31 Parents, guardians, or caregivers of students who are ill, feeling ill, diagnosed as ill, or otherwise
32 demonstrating symptoms of illness must not be present at school for any reason including but not
33 limited to events or gatherings or to drop off or pick up students except as provided by this
34 policy. To avoid exposing others to illness, parents or caregivers who are ill must make
35 arrangements with others to transport students to school or events, if at all practicable.

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37 Physical Distancing

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39 Students, staff, volunteers, and visitors will maintain at least a three-six-foot (3ft for students and
40 6ft for adults) distance between themselves and their colleagues and peers throughout the school
41 day inside any school building when practicable.

42

43 Recess and use of playgrounds during recess are permitted on an adjusted schedule to maintain
44 appropriate student groupings. Transportation services will be provided in accordance with
45 cleaning and disinfection procedures outlined in this policy.

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1 Parent arrival times to drop-off and pick up students riding with parents and caregivers may be
2 staggered in designated intervals by grade level through a schedule set by the building
3 administrator.

4
5 Drop off and pick up of students will be completed in a manner that limits direct contact between
6 parents and staff members and adheres to social distancing expectations around the exterior of
7 the school building while on school property.

8
9 Visitors to the school authorized by District Policy 1903 will maintain a six-foot distance
10 between themselves and others.

11
12 Face Coverings as Personal Protective Equipment

13
14 This provision is required due to the COVID-19 state of emergency declared by the Board of
15 Trustees or other local, state or federal agency, official, or legislative body. This policy is
16 adopted, implemented, and enforced in accordance with the supervisory authority vested with the
17 Board of Trustees in accordance with Article 10, section 8 of the Montana Constitution and
18 related statues and regulations. The Board of Trustees authorizes the Superintendent to develop
19 and implement procedures to enforce this policy.

20
21 Mask requirements for all staff, volunteers, visitors and school-aged students are based upon
22 community and District COVID-19 transmission data. HB 702, as approved during the 2021
23 legislative session, prohibits the District from basing masking requirements on COVID-19
24 vaccination status.

25
26 To begin the school year, if the number of active COVID-19 cases in Cascade County increases
27 to the point of being considered “substantial-high” rate of transmission as defined by the Centers
28 for Disease Control (CDC), the Board of Trustees directs the Superintendent to implement a
29 requirement for face coverings to be worn in district buildings and indoor-spaces where deemed
30 necessary based on local data.

31

Indicator	Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission
Positivity Rate	Less than 5%	5%-7.9%	8%-9.9%	10% or greater
Case Rate per 100,000	0-9.99	10-49.99	50-99.99	100 or greater

32 https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7030e2.htm#T1_down

33 During the course of the school year, the Board of Trustees authorized the Superintendent to
34 establish or lift mask requirements for grade bands/and or schools (elementary, middle school
35 and high school as defined in Board Policy 2105) and based upon multi-week trends in
36 associated grade band COVID-19 transmission data. The Superintendent shall use the
37 “substantial-high” rate of transmission as defined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as
38 the guiding decision metric when establishing or lifting mask requirements and other health and
39 safety protocols for grade bands/and or schools. Enforcement of any masking requirement will

1 not be based on an individual's COVID-19 vaccination status. Volunteer and visitor mask
2 requirements would mirror the requirement in the grade band(s) where they are
3 volunteering/visiting.

4
5 The Superintendent is authorized to establish or remove mask requirements at district buildings
6 without students at his/her discretion.

7
8 In the event it is determined face coverings are required, the Superintendent shall announce the
9 face covering requirement to students, parents, staff and visitors by 5:00 p.m. on Friday to be
10 implemented on the following Monday when practicable. If masks are required, signs will be
11 installed to inform students, parents, staff, and visitors of mask requirements while present in the
12 identified District buildings.

13
14 Face coverings means disposable or reusable masks that cover the nose and mouth. The District
15 will provide disposable masks to students, volunteers, and staff, if needed. If a student or staff
16 wears a reusable mask, the District expects that the masks be washed on a regular basis to ensure
17 maximum protection.

18
19 When a masking requirement is in place, students, staff, volunteers, and visitors are not required
20 to wear or face shield under this provision when:

- 21 1. Consuming food or drink;
- 22 2. Engaged in strenuous physical activity;
- 23 3. Communicating with someone who is hearing impaired;
- 24 4. Identifying themselves;
- 25 5. Receiving medical attention; or
- 26 6. Precluded from safely using a face covering due to a medical or developmental condition.

27 The Superintendent, building principal or their designee shall request documentation
28 from a care provider when considering an exception to this provision for medical or
29 developmental reasons. The District will comply with all applicable disability and
30 discrimination laws when implementing this provision.

31
32 When a masking requirement is in place and students and members of the public are not present,
33 staff may remove their masks if they are at their individual workstation and six feet of distance is
34 strictly maintained between individuals. In some circumstances, staff may lower face covering
35 while teaching, presenting, speaking or providing directions as long as they can maintain
36 appropriate distance (6ft) from others. This decision will be left to the discretion of the
37 individual staff member. At their discretion, staff may provide opportunities for students to have
38 routine mask breaks throughout the day if appropriate distancing can be maintained.

39
40 All points of entry to any school building or facility open to the public shall have clearly visible
41 sign posted stating the mask requirement.

42
43 Allegations of harassment of any person wearing a mask or those with recognized exemptions to
44 the face covering requirement will be promptly investigated in accordance with District policy.
45 Failure or refusal to wear a mask by a staff member or student not subject to an exception noted

1 above may result in redirection or discipline in accordance with District policy and codes of
2 conduct, as applicable.

3
4 Face coverings are required for drivers and riders on District routes and activities buses in
5 accordance with Federal regulations regardless of school mask requirements and flexibilities
6 described above.

7 8 Cleaning and Disinfecting

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10 District personnel will routinely both clean by removing germs, dirt, and impurities and disinfect
11 by using chemicals to kill germs on all surfaces and objects in any school building and on school
12 property that are frequently touched. This process shall include cleaning objects/surfaces not
13 ordinarily cleaned daily.

14
15 Personnel will clean with the cleaners typically used and will use all cleaning products according
16 to the directions on the label. Personnel will disinfect with common EPA-registered household
17 disinfectants. A list of products that are EPA/District approved for use against the current virus
18 will be made available. Personnel will follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and
19 disinfection products.

20
21 The District will provide EPA/District approved cleaning supplies to teachers, staff and
22 secondary students so that commonly used surface (e.g., keyboards, desks, remote controls) can
23 be wiped down before use. Supervising teachers or administrators are required to request
24 adequate supplies to support cleaning and disinfection practices.

25 26 Student Arrival

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28 Hand hygiene stations will be available at the entrance of every school building, so that children
29 can clean their hands before they enter. If a sink with soap and water is not available, the District
30 will provide hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Proper hand hygiene will be taught and
31 proper application of hand sanitizer will be supervised for elementary students.

32
33 A District employee will greet children outside the school as they arrive to ensure orderly
34 compliance with the provision of this policy.

35 36 Temperature Screening

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38 Designated District staff are authorized to test the temperature of symptomatic students and staff
39 with an approved non-contact or touchless reader. Students who have a fever or are exhibiting
40 other signs of illness must be isolated in a designated area until such time as parents or caregiver
41 may arrive at the school to retrieve the ill student. All surfaces and areas should be thoroughly
42 cleaned and disinfected once the student has vacated the area.

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44 When administrating a temperature check on a possibly ill staff or student, designated staff
45 members will utilize available physical barriers and personal protective equipment to eliminate
46 or minimize exposures due to close contact to an individual who has symptoms during screening.

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Healthy Hand Hygiene Behavior

Students, staff and others present in any school building will engage in hand hygiene at the following times, which include but are not limited to:

- Arrival and departure to and from the facility and after breaks
- Before and after preparing, eating, or handling food or drinks
- Before and after administrating medication or screening temperature
- After coming in contact with bodily fluid
- After recess
- After handling garbage
- After assisting students with handwashing
- After use of the restroom
- After laboratory use or shared equipment

Staff members will place a grade level appropriate poster describing handwashing steps near sinks.

Vulnerable Individuals

Vulnerable individuals (defined by the Centers for Disease Control) are authorized to talk to their healthcare provider to assess their risk and to determine if they require reasonable accommodations to work.

Employees who have documented high risk designation from a medical provider are entitled to reasonable accommodation within the meaning of that term in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 as outlined in District Policy 5002.

Food Preparation and Meal Service

Facilities must comply will all applicable federal, state and local regulations and guidance related to safe preparation of food.

Sinks used for food preparation must not be used for any other purposes.

Staff and students will wash their hands in accordance with this policy.

Transportation Services

The Board of Trustees authorized the transportation of eligible transportees to and from the school facility in a manner consistent with the protocols established in this policy. The school bus drivers and/or transportation personnel, will clean and disinfect each seat on each bus at the end of the day. Federal regulations require the wearing of masks on all public-school buses.

1 Public Awareness

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3 The District will communicate with parents, citizens, and other necessary stakeholders about the
4 protocols established in this policy and the steps taken to implement the protocols through all
5 available and reasonable means.
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7 Confidentiality

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9 This policy in no way limits or adjusts the District’s obligations to honor staff and student
10 privacy rights. All applicable District policies and handbook provision governing confidentiality
11 of student and staff medical information remain in full effect.
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13 Transfer of Funds for Safety Purposes

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15 The Board of Trustees may transfer state or local revenue from any budgeted or non-budgeted
16 fund, other than the debt service fund or retirement fund, to its building reserve fund in an
17 amount not to exceed the District’s estimated costs of improvements to the school and student
18 safety and security to implement this policy in accordance with District Policy 7123.
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20 Legal References: Governor’s Directive Implementing Executive Order 2-2021
21 Correspondence clarify Governor’s Directive – February 11, 2021
22 Article X, Section 8 Montana Constitution
23 Section 20-3-324, MCA Powers and Duties
24 Section 20-9-806, MCA School Closure by Declaration of Emergency
25 10.55.701(2)(d)(s) Board of Trustees
26 State, ex rel., Bartmess v. Helena Board of Trustees, 726P2d.801
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29 Cross References:

- 30 Policy 1901 School District Policy and Procedure
- 31 Policy 1903 District Meetings, Gatherings, Events and Visitors
- 32 Policy 1903F School Event and/or Facility Notice
- 33 Policy 1905P Administrative Procedures for Student, Staff, and Community Health and Safety
- 34 Policy 1906 Student Services and Instructional Delivery
- 35 Policy 1907 Transportation Services
- 36 Policy 1910 Human Resources and Personnel
- 37 Policy 1911 Personnel Use of Leave
- 38 Policy 3226 Hazing, Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying
- 39 Policy 3410 Student Health Physical Screenings Examinations
- 40 Policy 3417 Communicable Diseases
- 41 Policy 3431 Emergency Treatment
- 42 Policy 4120 Public Relations
- 43 Policy 5002 Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities
- 44 Policy 5130 Staff Health
- 45 Policy 5226 Hazing, Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying
- 46 Policy 5230 Prevention of Disease Transmission

- 1 Policy 6110 Superintendent
- 2 Policy 6122 Delegation of Authority
- 3 Policy 7123 Transfers for School Safety

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5 Policy History

6 Adopted on: May 1, 2020

7 Revised on: August 20, 2020

8 Revised on: September 14, 2020

9 Revised on: August 19, 2021