

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Student, Staff, and Community Health and Safety Needs

This policy applies during the COVID-19 state of emergency declared by the Board of Trustees or other local, state, or federal agency, official, or legislative body. This policy is adopted, implemented, and enforced in accordance with the supervisory authority vested with the Board of Trustees in accordance with Article 10, section 8 of the Montana Constitution. The Board of Trustees authorize the Superintendent to develop and implement procedures to enforce this policy. This policy is intended to ensure the safe and healthy delivery of educational services provided to students and a safe workplace for staff.

Face Coverings as Personal Protective Equipment

The District recommends all staff, volunteers, visitors, and school-aged students wear a face covering while present in any school building, regardless of vaccination status.

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

If the number of active COVID-19 cases in the county increases to the point of being considered a "substantial" or "high" rate of transmission as defined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Board of Trustees authorizes the Superintendent to implement a requirement for face coverings to be worn in all Elementary District PreK-8 schools and PreK-8 programs. The Superintendent may also consult with local health experts to include but not be limited to: St. Peter's Health, Lewis and Clark Public Health and other local health providers.

In the event it is determined face coverings are required, the Superintendent shall announce the face covering requirement to students, parents, staff, and visitors for the immediate successive school week by 3:00 pm on Friday of the previous week. If the Superintendent determines masks are required, signs will be installed to inform students, parents, staff, and visitors of mask requirements while present in the identified District buildings.

All points of entry to any school building or facility open to the public shall have a clearly visible sign posted stating whether masks are required or recommended.

Allegations of harassment of any person wearing or not wearing a mask will be promptly investigated in accordance with District policy.

Symptoms of Illness

Students and staff who are ill, feeling ill, diagnosed as ill, or otherwise demonstrating symptoms of illness must not come to school or work. Students who have a fever or are exhibiting other signs of illness must be isolated in a designated area until such time as parents or caregiver may

arrive at the school to retrieve the ill student. All surfaces and areas should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected once the student has vacated the area by staff utilizing safety measures in accordance with state and/or local health standards as applicable. Students may engage in alternative delivery of education services during the period of illness or be permitted to make up work.

To avoid exposing others to illness, parents or caregivers who are ill must make arrangements with others to transport students to school or events, if at all practicable. If not practicable, parents, guardians or caregivers must not leave their vehicle during pickup or drop off and must arrange with District staff to supervise students in accordance with physical distancing guidelines in this Policy.

Physical Distancing

To the extent possible students, staff, volunteers, and visitors will maintain a three-foot distance between themselves and their colleagues and peers throughout the school day inside any school building, on school provided transportation, and on school property before and after school.

Recess will continue as scheduled in accordance with recommended physical distancing guidance.

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

Cleaning and Disinfecting

School district personnel will routinely both clean surfaces and objects in any school building and on school property that are frequently touched. This process shall include cleaning objects/surfaces not ordinarily cleaned daily.

Student Arrival

Hand hygiene stations will be available at the entrance of any school building, so that children can clean their hands before they enter. If a sink with soap and water is not available, the School District will provide hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Healthy Hand Hygiene Behavior

All students, staff, and others present in the any school building will always engage in appropriate hand hygiene.

Hand hygiene includes but is not limited to washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If hands are not visibly dirty, alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol can be used if soap and water are not readily available.

Transportation Services

The Board of Trustees authorizes the transportation of eligible transportees to and from the

school facility in a manner consistent with the protocols established in this policy. Bus drivers will clean and disinfect each seat on each bus after each use.

Public Awareness

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

Confidentiality

This policy in no way limits or adjusts the School District's obligations to honor staff and student privacy rights. All applicable district policies and handbook provisions governing confidentiality of student and staff medical information remain in full effect.

Transfer of Funds for Safety Purposes

The Board of Trustees may transfer state or local revenue from any budgeted or non-budgeted fund, other than the debt service fund or retirement fund, to its building reserve fund in an amount not to exceed the school district's estimated costs of improvements to school and student safety and security to implement this policy.

Legal Reference Governor's Directive Implementing Executive Order 2-2021 – February 12, 2021
Correspondence clarifying Governor's Directive – February 11, 2021
Article X, section 8 Montana Constitution
Section 20-3-324, MCA Powers and Duties
Section 20-9-806, MCA School Closure by Declaration of Emergency
10.55.701(2)(d)(s) Board of Trustees
State, ex rel., Bartmess v. Helena Board of Trustees, 726 P.2d 801

Cross References: 1900 Temporary COVID-19 Policy
 1901 Emergency Policy and Procedures
 School District Declaration of Emergency 8.11.2020

Policy History:

Adopted on: 3.9.2021
Revised on: 4.13.2021, 6.8.2021, 8.10.2021
Reviewed on: