



Student Masking During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Memo To: All Staff
From: Director of Education

ACCESSIBILITY:

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PURPOSE:

Consistent with the advice of Waterloo Region Public Health, the use of masks or face coverings by students while in school is intended to limit the spread of COVID-19.

REFERENCES:

- Ontario Ministry of Education's Guide to Reopening Ontario's Schools released on July 30, 2020
- Waterloo Region Public Health

FORMS:

- APH034-01F: [Mask Exemption – COVID 19](#)

REPORTS:

- N/A

APPENDICES:

- N/A

COMMENTS AND GUIDELINES:

In compliance with the Ontario Ministry of Education's Guide to Reopening Ontario's Schools released on July 30, 2020 and the provincial emergency declared on January 6, 2021, all students are required to wear masks.

Masks must cover a student's nose and mouth and must fit over the chin. Masks are required to be worn by students at all times while in school and while on a school bus with the following exceptions:

- While eating lunch
- While in the gym during physical education programming, depending on the teacher directed activity
- While outdoors for recess, lunch or learning activities where physical distancing can be maintained
- Designated mask breaks

Students in kindergarten must wear masks, but an exemption form will not be required if a student is unable to do so.



Students in grades 1 to 12 may be exempted from wearing a mask due to a medical accommodation for the student. Such requests shall be submitted to the school principal using [Mask Exemption – COVID 19](#) (Form APH034-01F) provided in Forms Section of this memorandum.

Teachers will consider opportunities for safe and reasonable mask breaks within the school day.

Progressive discipline will apply in the event students in grades 1 to 12 fail to comply with the requirements of this memorandum.