



Masks

Are masks currently required to be worn indoors at school?

Sea Girt School District must abide by Executive Order 251 and Executive Order 253. There are limited exceptions to the mask order. The exceptions are as follows:

- When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors; (medical documentation required per Executive Order 253)
- When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance; (medical documentation required per Executive Order 253)
- When a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes use of a face covering; (medical documentation required per Executive Order 253)
- When the individual is under two (2) years of age;
- When the individual is engaged in activity that cannot physically be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating or drinking, or playing a musical instrument that would be obstructed by a face covering;
- When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity;
- When a student is participating in high-intensity physical activities during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals; or
- When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task. (as excerpted from Executive Order 251 and The Road Forward)

With respect to the above exceptions, I believe it is necessary to provide some concrete context. Below, please find answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ) pertaining to Executive Order 251 and Executive Order 253.

Will my child have to wear a mask in their classroom?

As you are aware, all of the instructional spaces in Sea Girt Elementary School are air conditioned. In the event a learning space's air conditioning is not functioning properly, the room's conditions will be assessed by administration. If the heat is deemed excessive and an alternate learning space cannot be located, masks will be optional.

My child may have a medical exception to the mask mandate, what is my first step towards exploring a medical exception?

I have received communication from parents asking for details regarding the possibility of medical exceptions. If a parent believes wearing a mask is contraindicated to a medical condition, the first step is to provide a note from your child's doctor with a diagnosis to your



school's nurse. This request will be forwarded to the school physician for review; additional information may be requested in order to make a determination. I would like to convey that a medical note seeking exceptions or program exclusions becomes part of a student's school medical record.

Will my child need to wear a mask during physical education class?

Every effort will be made to hold physical education classes outdoors (masks not required outdoors). When outdoor classes are not feasible they will be held indoors in a well-ventilated space. If the activities in the physical education class are of high intensity and proper distance can be maintained, masks will be optional. High-intensity extracurricular athletics taking place indoors will be mask-optional for participants.

Will mask breaks be scheduled for students?

Opportunities for mask breaks will be scheduled throughout the school day.

What will happen if a student is sent to school without a mask?

School personnel will make a mask available to the student. If the mask is refused, the parent will be asked to pick their child up from school. The student will be marked absent.

What could happen to a school district if it doesn't comply with Executive Orders 251 & 253?

Should school districts choose not to comply with Executive Orders 251 and 253, the following consequences could be imposed: loss of state funding, arrests, fines, and/or potential loss of NJDOE certificates for staff and administrators.

What can I do if I disagree with Governor Murphy's Orders?

If you disagree with Governor Murphy's Orders you may contact the Governor's office directly or your local legislators. The Sea Girt Board of Education does not have the authority to modify or disregard the Governor's Orders.

Contact Tracing & Close Contacts

Will school be required to contact trace this school year?

Schools must continue contact tracing and quarantining students who have COVID-19, exhibit illness that is clinically compatible to COVID-19, or have been deemed to be in close contact with the aforementioned. The CDC defines close contact as being within 6 feet of someone with suspected or known COVID-19 for 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period. **However, in the classroom setting there is an exception; this distance in the classroom setting has been reduced to 3 feet if both students are wearing well-fitting masks.** Note: This exception only applies to students and does not apply to the teachers, staff, or other (non-student) adults in the classroom.



Additionally, the guidance dictates that exposed close contacts who are fully-vaccinated and have no COVID-like symptoms:

- Do not need to quarantine, be excluded from school, or be tested following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure.
- If they experience symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including SARS-CoV-2 testing and inform their health care provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.

Screening

Will the district be using the Oncourse for parents to screen their child(ren) before they arrive at school?

Yes. The district will ask parents to assess their child's health each morning prior to arrival at school. If a child is exhibiting COVID-like symptoms, s/he must stay home. If you have questions regarding symptoms, please call Mrs. Ryder.

Vaccines

Will the State of New Jersey or Sea Girt Public Schools require COVID-19 vaccinations for students?

We are not aware of any such requirement and Sea Girt Public Schools is not considering local policy requiring students to be vaccinated for COVID-19.

Is the State of New Jersey going to require COVID-19 vaccinations for staff?

On August 23, 2021, Governor Murphy signed Executive Order 253 ([Click here to view Executive Order 253](#)). This order requires public employees, including all school personnel, to either be fully-vaccinated by October 18, 2021 or participate in a weekly COVID-19 testing protocol.

Virtual Learning

Will parents be able to opt for virtual learning like last year?

No. The NJDOE will not permit local school districts to provide an all-virtual learning option for parents.

If my child is quarantined due to being in close contact or testing positive for COVID-19, is there academic support available?

Yes, if a student is precluded from the school setting due to testing positive for COVID-19 or is quarantined due to being in close contact, lessons will be streamed like last year.

Will the district hold "virtual days" instead of "snow days" or emergency closings like last year?



School districts are not permitted to use the virtual school day option for the 2021-2022 to count towards the 180-day requirement unless, “pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9, a district is required to close the school of the district for more than three consecutive school days due to a declared state of emergency, declared public health emergency, or a directive and/or recommendation by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public health-related closure, days of virtual or remote instruction commensurate with in-person instruction will count towards the district’s 180-day requirement” (The Road Back, 13)