

Policy

Caledonia Central Supervisory Union and its member Districts recognize their responsibility and authority to ensure our school community's health and well-being. 16 V.S.A. § 834(a) provides that “[e]ach school district and its employees owe its students a duty of ordinary care to prevent the students from being exposed to unreasonable risk, from which it is foreseeable that injury is likely to occur.” In order to satisfy this requirement, the District Board partially delegates planning for the District’s COVID-19 mitigation measures, including masking requirements, to the Superintendent, pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 242.

The Superintendent is directed to adopt appropriate practices and procedures to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19 among and within the school communities, based on applicable mandates, recommendations, or directives of the State of Vermont Agency of Human Services and Agency of Education, as well as applicable federal guidance or mandates.

The Board endorses the current guidance of the Agency of Education, in part, as set forth in its August 4, 2021 memorandum. However, the differences in campus configurations across the Supervisory Union (PK-6, PK-8, and PK-12) present challenges that are not fully appreciated or contemplated within the Agency of Education guidance, and as such, the Board’s delegation to the Superintendent is with the understanding that more cautious practices may be adopted. Therefore, the Board’s delegation of authority establishes the following minimum standards:

- Universal masking for all students, staff and other persons when indoors;
- Masks, when required, may be removed when needed for instructional or operational purposes;
- Masks are currently required for all passengers on buses per federal regulation, regardless of age or vaccination status;
- Masks should not be required outdoors.

The Superintendent and administration are entrusted to promulgate practices and procedures consistent with these minimum standards. The Board has concerns about how to measure the 80% vaccination threshold provided for under the Agency of Education guidance, given the age gradient of grades, use of common spaces by all ages of students (e.g. main building, library, gymnasium, cafeteria), medical privacy of students and families, as well as the impact of an inconsistent standard across the school campuses. As such, the 80% student vaccination threshold for potentially eliminating masks is deemed to be an aspiration and not a directive. And the administration will determine if and when a school meets that threshold.

Exemptions for students who cannot wear a facial mask may be requested and approved in accordance with previous guidance. Finally, the board may revisit this partial delegation of authority and may hold emergency meetings as health circumstances change.

Date Warned: 09/07/2021-Danville

Date Adopted: 10/05/2021-Danville