

## **Quakertown Community School District Protocols for Implementation of Mask Mandate Effective September 7, 2021**

On August 31, 2021, Pennsylvania's Acting Secretary of Health signed an [Order requiring face coverings to be worn in all school entities](#), including school districts, brick and mortar and cyber charter schools, private and parochial schools, career and technical centers, intermediate units, and early learning and other child care settings, effective Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

To comply with the Department of Health Order for masking in schools, Quakertown Community School District will implement the Order using the following protocols:

### **Exceptions to the DoH Order:**

Parents/guardians may apply for an Exception as enumerated in [Section 3 of the Order](#) by completing the Exception Request Form.

Once submitted, the district will review the form to verify that the requested exception qualifies under the Order, and to then meet its [Child Find obligations](#). Verification will include the process on the attached chart. As the Order notes, "All alternatives to a face covering, including the use of a face shield, should be exhausted before an individual is excepted from this Order."

Once the district verifies that the exception request complies with the DoH Order, the request will be approved. If the exception request cannot be verified or is determined not to comply with Section 3 of the Order, the request will be denied.

Students whose 504 Plan or IEP already contains reference to mask protocols and requirements must request a 504 or IEP team meeting if the parent/guardian wants to discuss requested changes.

**Students will be required to wear a mask in compliance with the mandate until an exception form is reviewed and approved.**

### **Non-Compliance of Students:**

Students who do not have a verified/approved Exception on file and who refuse to mask or to remain masked indoors will be addressed as follows:

#### **If when entering the bus:**

- Student will be reminded of the requirement and will be offered a mask
- If the student remains non-compliant, the student will be asked not to enter the bus
- Drivers are directed to remain at the bus stop with the doors closed until all students are compliant, when feasible
- When not feasible, drivers will continue on the route and notify the terminal that there are non-compliant students on the bus so that an administrator can meet the bus at the school

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- If the student is non-compliant while on the bus, the driver will complete a bus referral form for discipline
- Non-compliance while on the bus will result in one Warning, followed by suspension from the bus for one day. Additional incidents of non-compliance on the bus will result in suspension from the bus for longer periods of time

**If at entry to school:**

- Student will be reminded of the requirement and will be provided with a mask
- If student remains non-compliant, the student may be denied entry to the building and parent will be contacted to pick up the student
- If the student must enter the building, the student will wait in a designated area for the parent to pick them up.
- Student will be recorded as absent

**If during the school day:**

- Student will be reminded of the requirement and will be provided with a mask
- If still non-compliant, student will be sent to the office
- Counselor or Principal will remind student of the requirement and provide a mask if needed
- If still non-compliant, the following strategies will be used based on the circumstances of the situation:
  - Student will be disciplined for violation of [Policy 221](#) and other school rules as applicable in accordance with the Code of Conduct (which may include detention, lunch or recess detention, loss of school or extracurricular privileges or other progressive discipline)
  - Student will be assigned to a separate location and will have the opportunity to participate in their education asynchronously until picked up by the parent/guardian.
  - Non-compliant students will not be able to ride the bus home unless wearing a mask.
  - Student will eat lunch in a separate location
  - Parent will be contacted to pick up student. Student will not be able to ride the bus home unless wearing a mask.
- At any time, the student can return to class upon complying with wearing a mask
- Persistent violations may result in a recommendation to switch to Q-Flex for the remainder of that semester if feasible

**Non-Compliance by Staff**

Staff who do not themselves follow or who fail to enforce the DoH mandate will be subject to progressive discipline and risk being reported to PDE for educator misconduct. **Please do not put our teachers or other staff members in this position so their focus can remain on teaching and learning.**