



TO: ISAAC Faculty and Staff  
FROM: Dr. Nicholas J. Spera, Executive Director  
DATE: September 4, 2020  
SUBJECT: Types of Face Masks Worn by Employees and Students

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update based on the recent guidance regarding the use of face coverings in schools by the Connecticut State Department of Education in partnership with the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Addendum 11 entitled *Interim Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings in School during COVID-19* describes and lists the types of masks that are not recommended to be worn in schools by students and adults. Based on these recommendation, we will be changing our policy.

Starting immediately, the use of N95 Respirators (except for nurses) and Exhalation Valve Masks will not be allowed to be worn at ISAAC. N95 Respirators need specific fit-testing and medical clearance to be worn. Exhalation Valve Masks may allow some droplets to escape through the mask, may not close tightly when breathing in, and cannot be cleaned easily. For these reasons as described on pages 3 and 4 of Addendum 11, if worn by a student or adult in the building, will be replaced with a temporary mask that will be provided by the teacher or administrator upon entrance into the school building or classroom. Moreover, a supply of masks have been provided and are assessable by all teachers in each classroom. Furthermore, Principal Dunning will be sending out a letter regarding this new mandate. Please support this policy by providing an alternative mask to any student seen wearing a N95 Respirator or Exhalation Valve Mask in your classroom.

The guidance states that the wearing of face coverings by all students and staff at all times while inside the school is the most important strategy in limiting the opportunity for the spread of COVID-19 in the school population. The addendum further notes that it is important to remember however that, although extremely important, face coverings are just one part of system of procedures that are in place to safeguard the health and safety of students, teachers, and school staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In conclusion, I want to applaud your collective efforts and unwavering commitment towards ensuring the safety of our students and each other throughout the start of in-person learning at ISAAC. This week has been an absolute success because of your commitment in living the ISAAC Core Values and Beliefs by ensuring a safe and nurturing middle school where all students can succeed.