

North Mac Certification for Mask Exemption and Remote Learning Option During COVID-19 Pandemic

Part 3 Transition Guidance: Starting the 2020-21 School Year FAQ

Last updated: ~~July 9, 2020~~, August 31, 2020

The Part 3 Transition Guidance: Starting the 2020-21 School Year can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Part-3-Transition-Planning-Phase-4.pdf>

FACE COVERINGS

- 1. Are all individuals in a school building required to wear a face covering at all times?** (Updated 6/25/2020) **Yes.** As required by IDPH, except while eating and during band, face coverings must be worn at all times in school buildings, even when social distance is maintained. All individuals in a school building must wear a face covering unless they have a medical contraindication, are under 2 years of age, have trouble breathing, or are unconscious, incapacitated, or unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
- 2. Are face coverings required when individuals are outside?** (Updated 6/25/2020) Face coverings are not required outside if social distance is maintained (if individuals remain 6 feet apart from each other).
- 3. Can face shields be used in lieu of face coverings (e.g. masks)?** (Updated 6/30/2020) **Generally, no.** Face shields are not effective protection against coronavirus and should only be used in situations when other methods of protection are not available. IDPH also appreciates that there may be a small minority of individuals who have a medical contraindication to using face coverings. If face shields can be tolerated, face shields might be utilized in these situations, understanding their limitations and the heightened need for strict adherence to social distancing. ISBE recommends that schools review information such as a physician's note documenting the medical contraindication for any individual who is not able to wear a face covering. **Face shields will not be accepted as a proper face covering for students at North Mac unless engaged in a specific activity with speech and language therapists in a one-to-one setting.**
- 4. Can staff use face shields for instruction?** (Updated 6/30/2020) In cases where individuals need facial visualization for instruction and communication, IDPH recommends video instruction to promote social distancing. If video instruction is not available or appropriate, face shields may be used with the understanding that they have not been deemed effective for source control. As such, heightened attention and adherence to 6-foot social distancing is critical for individuals using face shields. Examples of limited situations when face shields may be necessary, if video instruction is not possible, include for teachers of English Learners or world languages, whose students may need to see their mouths form words to facilitate language acquisition.
- 5. How should schools and districts verify a student meets an exception to the face covering requirement?** (Updated 6/25/2020) It is required that a physician's note, along with the completed form below be presented for students and staff who are not able to wear a face covering. Forms must be completed by the physician. Only notes and forms signed by a licensed medical doctor, or M.D., will be accepted. This does not include an RN, LPN, Physician's Assistant, etc.
- 6. Will my child be permitted to attend school with a verification that the he/she meets an exception to the face covering requirement?** No. In order to insure the safety, health, and welfare of others, any student who produces a verification from a licensed medical doctor that indicates the child cannot wear a face covering will have their educational needs met through a remote learning alternative that will be worked out specifically with that child and his/her parent or guardian.

NORTH MAC CUSD #34 STUDENT FACE COVERING EXEMPTION FORM AND/OR REMOTE LEARNING OPTION REQUEST FORM

This form must be completed and signed by a **licensed medical doctor**. Only notes and forms signed by a licensed medical doctor, or M.D., will be accepted. This does not include an RN, LPN, Physician's Assistant, etc.

Section 1 – This section may be completed by the parent.

Name of Student: _____

Student Address (Street, City, State, Zip Code): _____

Student Date of Birth: _____

Name of Student's Parent or Guardian: _____

Telephone Number of Student's Parent or Guardian: _____

Grade of Student: _____

School Building (Elementary, South Campus, or High School): _____

Student's Teacher Name or Homeroom Teacher: _____

Section 2 – This section to be completed by physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches.

Date: _____

Diagnosis (Please fill in the following):

Disease/Injury/Surgery (Primary diagnosis causing need for face covering exemption or full remote learning):

If disease, is the disease communicable (Yes or No): _____

Impact the diagnosed medical condition has on this student's ability to wear a face covering while attending school or why full remote learning is necessary for this student:

I certify that this student is unable to attend public school due to his/her inability to wear a face covering or due to medical issues regarding this student and/or family members within their home with compromised health issues and is medically eligible and physically able to engage in an alternative remote educational option.

(Type or Print Name of Physician)

(Provider Contact Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

(Original Signature of Physician) Note: Stamped signatures will not be accepted.