

Adopted: 08/17/2021

*Parnassus Preparatory School Policy 809
Orig. 2020*

Revised: 11/09/2021

BOARD POLICY 809: RECOMMENDED UNIVERSAL MASKING AND COVID-19 RELATED QUARANTINES

I. GENERAL POLICY

At the November 9th, 2021, meeting of the Parnassus Preparatory School Board of Directors, the board made the decision to change the mask requirement for School of Rhetoric students to a strong recommendation beginning Monday, November 15, 2021. With the removal of the face covering requirement for School of Rhetoric students, the school will not require mandatory quarantines for School of Rhetoric students who have been exposed to Covid-19 at school unless they also test positive for Covid-19, have symptoms of illness consistent with Covid-19, or if there is a confirmed case of Covid-19 among the members of their immediate household and the student is not vaccinated. Additionally, the school will no longer perform contact tracing related to Covid-19 exposure at school for the School of Rhetoric, and, for School of Rhetoric students only, the school will no longer follow the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)'s Decision Tree for People in School, Youth, and Child Care Programs, the board voted to amend Policy 809 to reflect the removal of the mask requirement and the fact that, for School of Rhetoric students only, the school will no longer follow the Decision Tree.

Masks will continue to be strongly recommended, not required, for School of Rhetoric students so long as there are fewer than 10 positive cases among School of Rhetoric students within a defined two-week period. No case will be counted twice; the two-week increment for measuring cases will consist of a stagnant two-week period, not a rolling period.

In the event that there are 10 or more positive cases within a two-week period, the school will notify students and families that masks will be required for School of Rhetoric students beginning the Monday following the announcement. The mask requirement would then remain in effect until there have been fewer than 10 positive cases among the School of Rhetoric student body within the next designated two-week period.

These changes apply only to students in the School of Rhetoric. The original stipulations of Policy 809, including following the guidance of the MDH Decision Tree will continue to apply to students in the Schools of Grammar and Logic until further notice.

Given the ongoing public health threat caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Parnassus Preparatory School (School) will follow public health guidance regarding recommendations for universal masking. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) have recommended universal masking in schools for all individuals, regardless of vaccination status. All School staff, students, and visitors present within the school building are strongly encouraged to wear a mask or appropriate face covering, regardless of vaccination status.

In addition, the School will follow public health guidance related to quarantining students or staff who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19; test positive for COVID-19; and/or are a close contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19. Specifically, the School will follow the Recommended COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs and related guidance issued by the Minnesota Department of Health, as the Decision Tree and related guidance may be amended from time to time. All students and staff will be required to comply with the School's quarantine procedures and shall remain out of any and all School buildings and offices, transportation, and activities, wherever located, as directed by School administration consistent with the Decision Tree and related guidance. If the Decision Tree and related guidance are unclear or there is uncertainty about how they apply to particular facts, School administration has the discretion to make necessary decisions. This policy will remain in effect for the 2021-2022 school year unless repealed by the School Board sooner.

Quarantines are meant to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by those who are reasonably suspected to have contracted the virus, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, and to be able to transmit it to others, particularly to those who are unvaccinated. At the time of this policy's adoption, there is no vaccine approved for children under the age of 12 and there are other students and staff in the School who are believed to be unvaccinated. Further, available evidence indicates that those who are vaccinated can contract and spread COVID-19. Because the School setting brings many people together indoors, following quarantine procedures is an important measure in limiting the spread of COVID-19 and associated disruptions to the educational environment. In adopting this policy, the Board of Directors considered and weighed the political, educational, social, health, and safety factors behind the CDC, MDE, and MDH guidance related to masking and quarantines and the needs of the School's students, staff, and community.

II. MONITORING AND REPORTING

All students, staff, and other individuals entering any school building or office, transportation, or activities, wherever located, must monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 and/or potential close contacts with those who have tested positive for COVID-19 and promptly report any such symptoms or close contacts to School administration to determine proper quarantine procedures. Such individuals must also report if they test positive for COVID-19 or any member of their household tests positive for COVID-19. Parents/guardians are responsible for monitoring and reporting for their student(s), except that students who are 18 years of age or older are responsible for their own monitoring and reporting. Anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms, a close contact, a positive COVID-19 test, or a positive COVID-19 test within the household shall not enter any school building or office, transportation, or activities, wherever located, until making a proper report to School administration and completing any quarantine period as directed by School administration consistent with the Decision Tree and related guidance.

III. VACCINATED STUDENTS AND STAFF

To the extent that the Decision Tree and related guidance provide less restrictive quarantine procedures for individuals who are vaccinated, only those individuals who provide proof of full vaccination will be entitled to the benefit of any such procedures. "Full vaccination" means that at the time of the incident giving rise to potential quarantine, at least two weeks have passed since the individual completed the full vaccine course, whether one dose or two doses. Proof of vaccination must be in the form of a valid vaccination card, medical record confirming vaccination, or other documentation reasonably confirming vaccination as deemed appropriate by School administration. To be sufficient, proof of vaccination must include the date(s) of vaccination, type of vaccine received. Data regarding a student's or staff member's vaccination status will be shared only with those School staff who have a need to access the data.

Absent timely proof of vaccination, individuals will be treated as unvaccinated for purposes of applying the quarantine procedures.

IV. CONSIDERATIONS FOR STAFF REQUIRED TO QUARANTINE

If an employee is required to quarantine and is not sick, the employee and their supervisor will discuss whether the employee can perform the essential duties of their job while at home. If not, the employee may use any leave that is currently available to them for the days that they are required to quarantine and cannot work.

V. FAILURE TO COMPLY

Anyone who fails to comply with this policy or the direction of School administration to quarantine and remain away from all School buildings or offices, transportation, or activities, wherever located, for the full quarantine period, consistent with the Decision Tree and related public health guidance, may be subject to discipline and/or exclusion from all School property and activities. In the case of School employees, such discipline shall be up to and including discharge. To the extent allowed by law, students refusing to comply

with the quarantine procedures will be suspended, which may extend for the length of the applicable quarantine period. A student's subsequent refusal to comply with the School's quarantine procedures could lead to additional discipline up to and including expulsion, consistent with the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act.

VI. NOTICE

The School will provide staff and students and/or their parents/guardians with notice of the current Decision Tree in effect by posting the Decision Tree or a link to the document in a conspicuous place on its website. To the extent practicable, the School will also provide a copy or link to the Decision Tree via a direct communication to staff and students and/or their parents/guardians. Without regard for whether actual notice of amendments to the Decision Tree has been given or received, the most recent iteration of the Decision Tree and related guidance issued by the Minnesota Department of Health will control the School's quarantine procedures.

Legal References:

Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minnesota Statutes Sections 121A.40 to 121A.56

Cross References:

Board Policy 506 (Student Discipline)

Other References:

MDH Recommended COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf>

MDE Best Practice Recommendations for COVID-19 Prevention in Schools for the 2021-22 School Year

CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools: Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine