

Adopted: 08/17/2021

Parnassus Preparatory School Policy 809  
Orig. 2020

Revised: 1/25/2022

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

### **I. GENERAL POLICY**

At the January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, meeting of the Parnassus Preparatory School Board of Directors, the board made the decision to change the mask requirement for Schools of Grammar, Logic and Rhetoric students to a strong recommendation beginning Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Masks may be temporarily required at certain school levels if there is an increase of cases and roughly 5% or more of the student body within a given school tests positive for COVID-19. Detailed guidelines for when masks will be required, rather than recommended, are specified for each school level.

Effective immediately, for students in the Schools of Grammar, Logic and Rhetoric, the School will not require mandatory quarantines for students who have been exposed to COVID-19 at school unless (i) the student tests positive for COVID-19 or (ii) the student has symptoms of illness consistent with COVID-19.

Non-symptomatic students who have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 within their households or through other close contacts may attend school so long as they remain symptom-free, regardless of their vaccination status. These students should wear a mask or other approved face covering for at least five days after exposure and should continue to self-monitor for symptoms.

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 School will no longer perform contact tracing related to COVID-19 exposure at school; however, the School will send a letter to parents and guardians of students who have been exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 at school to notify them of the exposure.

When masks are required, rather than recommended, following the guidelines listed below, Board Policy 808: Face Coverings will apply to all individuals subject to the mask requirement. For more details, please consult Board Policy 808: Face Coverings for information on proper use of masks and face coverings.

#### **School of Grammar Guidelines**

Masks will continue to be strongly recommended, not required, for School of Grammar students so long as there are fewer than 30 positive cases among School of Grammar 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.

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In the event that there are 30 or more positive cases within a two-week period, the School will notify students and families that masks will be required for School of Grammar students beginning the school day following the announcement. The mask requirement would then remain in effect until there have been fewer than 30 positive cases among the School of Grammar student body within the next designated two-week period.

### **School of Logic Guidelines**

Masks will continue to be strongly recommended, not required, for School of Logic students so long as there are fewer than 20 positive cases among School of Logic 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 20 or more positive cases within a two-week period, the School will notify students and families that masks will be required for School of Logic students beginning the school day following the announcement. The mask requirement would then remain in effect until there have been fewer than 20 positive cases among the School of Logic student body within the next designated two-week period.

### **School of Rhetoric Guidelines**

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 school day 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.

### **Parnassus Employees**

Masks will continue to be strongly recommended, not required, for Parnassus Employees beginning Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, as long as all school levels are under their respective numbers and not being required to wear masks. If any school level is required to reinstate masking requirements, all Parnassus employees will also be required to wear a mask.

### **Universal Masking and Quarantines**

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 continue to consult public health guidance related to quarantining students or staff who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and isolating

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those who test positive for COVID-19. All students and staff will be required to comply with the School's quarantine and isolation procedures and shall remain out of any and all School buildings and offices, transportation, and activities, wherever located, as directed by School. If guidance is 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 until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, for the current 2021-2022 school year, unless repealed by the School Board before that date.

Quarantine and isolation periods 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 are 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 and isolation 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 children, with the exception that students who are 18 years of age or older are responsible for their own monitoring and reporting. Anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test 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 or isolation period as directed by School administration.

## **III. 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.

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## 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 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.

### **Legal References:**

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

### **Cross References:**

Board Policy 506 (Student Discipline)  
Board Policy 808 (Face Covering Policy)

### **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