

## **FILE CODE POLICY #5141.10**

### **FACE COVERINGS**

On February 7, 2022, Governor Phil Murphy announced that Executive Order 251, which mandated that all students, staff and visitors to Linden Public Schools where face coverings inside of all school district premises, will expire on March 7, 2022. With the expiration of this mandate, effective March 7, 2022, face coverings for all students, staff and visitors shall be optional in Linden Public Schools, unless face coverings are required by law.

If face coverings are required by law, the following protocols will be followed by the Linden Public Schools:

- Face masks will be available to staff and students as necessary;
- All staff members will be required to wear face coverings in accordance with the law;
- Accommodations for an individual who is unable to wear a face covering will be addressed according to that individual's need and in accordance with applicable laws.

The Linden Public School District will continue to implement social distancing to the greatest extent possible, promote handwashing and thoroughly clean its buildings.

Legal guardians of Linden Public School students are still strongly encouraged to keep students home if they are showing any symptoms of Covid-19. Legal guardians may consult with the student's school nurse if they have any questions.

Pursuant to federal law, face coverings must still be worn on school buses.

Governor Murphy's Executive Order 253, which requires all staff members who are eligible to be vaccinated against Covid-19 to be fully vaccinated, remains in effect.

The Linden Board of Education reserves the right to amend this policy as it continues to monitor data and trends, and remains in consultation with state and local health officials regarding best practices.

**REVISED:** February 24, 2022