

DRAFT

IMPLEMENTING FLEXIBLE MASKING

Westborough has received the DESE waiver for WHS and Gibbons to implement flexible masking.

We will plan to move to flexible masking. I have reiterated that we will “Go slowly to go far safely.” I have confidence in our ability to move forward to this next step and effectively monitor and maintain a safe, productive and flexible learning environment. To get to that place I have noted a developing timeline of discussion and plans.

Westborough continues to be an impressive community and school district regarding our commitment to vaccination, protocols and collaboration. Our benchmark data at both the community and school level is very strong. Moving forward we will guide all of our decisions in a continuous view of data and discussion.

Current Data:

Vaccination:

School	Faculty (unvaccinated)	Students % Vaccinated
HS	3	85% 1016 of 1197
Gibbons	3	82% 485 of 594

Total Cases: September 1st to October 26th

School	Faculty	Students
HS	3 3/vaccinated	4 2/vaccinated 2/unvaccinated
Gibbons	5 5/vaccinated	1 1/unvaccinated

For Reference:

[Opening protocols and plans for 2021-2022](#)

DRAFT Timeline and Planning Steps

Timeline and Process:

Accomplished:

10/5/21	Discussion with Labor Board
10/6/21	Discussion with School Committee
10/7/21	Discussion with Westborough Leadership Team
10/8/21	Community update
10/15/21	Apply to DESE for flexible masking options
10/20/21	SC: Discuss DESE approval on flexible masking and outline next steps

Next Steps:

10/26	Update colleagues and provide link for questions and comments
10/27	Attend Board of Health to discuss plans
10/28	Superintendent's Advisory Will activate FAQ as we move forward
10/29	Communication to families on student vaccination confirmation
11/2	Labor Board & School Committee meetings
11/17	School Committee meeting: option to vote Continue implementation Decisions on events using protocols School Committee Discussion and data review Consult with Board of Health Work with Labor Board

Consultation and Data Assessment:

School Committee
DESE and DPH and CDC guidelines
Board of Health- review of community health data
Labor Board
Safety Committee- review of schools' health data
Superintendent's Advisory Council (District parent advisory team) FAQ updates
Area superintendents

DRAFT IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

Using data as a guideline, we are safe to move forward. Westborough is a very safe community with impressive levels of vaccination and limited cases.

Expectations:

- All students and faculty will have a mask available at all times
- Any unvaccinated individuals will remain masked indoors
- All students will wear a mask on the bus until the DESE/State guidelines change
- All students and faculty will encourage a school culture supportive and respectful of flexible masking.
 - Respect for anyone's decision to mask or flex mask will be supported
 - Many reasons exist for why a person selects to wear a mask and everyone will be respectful of privacy and personal choice
- As a values based district, we will make every effort to both respect privacy guidelines while monitoring mask wearing for those who must maintain masking. We fully expect we will see flex masking for a wide range of both faculty and students based on individual choices.

Special circumstances for masking:

- If flex masking is approved by SC on 11/17. Students and faculty would mask the week following Thanksgiving (11/29-12/3).
- Sports guidelines will have specific notes per sport following league and local decisions.
- Any student or faculty will respectfully mask if requested by an administrator
- Theater and Fine Arts events will continue to require audiences to mask. Review of this practice will occur 1/10/2022.
- Other special events (such as dances or PGA events) will be reviewed for protocol plans.
- Using very specific guidelines outlined by Human Resources and the Nurse Leader, some classrooms will have approved masking guidelines for limited documented medical circumstances related to student or faculty needs.
 - Examples: Masking at the shared table group or specific spacing for a student.
 - Masking to hold a 1:1 meeting with a faculty member.

**DATA PROTOCOL
&
COMMUNICATION WITH THE WESTBOROUGH BOARD OF HEALTH and
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

These guidelines are from last year's protocol documents. Approved and implemented by School Committee and the Board of Health.

These are the active protocols and procedures that our administrators and nurses are currently employing to keep our schools safe.

I recommend moving forward with flexible masking and maintaining this protocol of weekly discussion. Any changes to masking for a classroom or school would be adjusted based on health and safety data.

1. The Health and Safety Committee, in consultation with the Westborough Board of Health, will develop a system for tracking pertinent health metrics:
 - a. Students and staff who are diagnosed with COVID-19
 - b. Students and staff who are symptomatic at home or at school (who will be sent home)
 - c. Students and staff who have confirmed/possible exposure at school or at home
 - d. Close contacts of students or staff with confirmed/possible exposure at school or at home
2. Data Collection and Analysis
 - a. Daily data will be tabulated by school nurses and reported to Judy Noonan, Nurse Leader. This data will also be shared with the Board of Health.
 - b. Weekly data will be automatically tabulated in this instrument and will be assessed for trends by the district and the Board of Health.
 - c. This "Data Dashboard" will be viewable by faculty and families on a weekly basis.
 - d. The Board of Health will collaborate with the district to analyze school, local, and state health metrics and data (also referenced on page 7) to determine if any actions such as classroom or school quarantine/closure must occur.