

P2150 Pandemic/Epidemic Events – Use of Face Masks

The Board of Trustees of the Manchester Community Schools recognizes that a pandemic/epidemic outbreak is a serious threat that stands to affect students, staff, and the community as a whole. With this consideration in mind, the Board establishes this policy in the event the school corporation is affected by a pandemic/epidemic outbreak. At all times the health, safety, and welfare of the students shall be the first priority.

Planning and Coordination

The Superintendent shall designate one or more staff members to serve as a liaison between the school corporation and local and state health officials. This designee is responsible for communicating with health officials to identify local hazards, determine what crisis plans exist in the school corporation and community, and to establish procedures to account for student well-being and safety during such a crisis. The designee shall work with local health officials to coordinate their pandemic/epidemic plans with that of the school corporation.

With fiscal concerns in mind, the School Corporation may purchase and store supplies necessary for an epidemic/pandemic outbreak, including but not limited to: disinfectant products, face masks, water, examination gloves, and other supplies as recommended by health officials.

The Superintendent shall develop procedures and plans for the emergency closure or reopening of schools in the event of a pandemic/epidemic outbreak. For the reopening of schools, the plan must address the use of personal protection equipment such as face masks, other face coverings, hand sanitizers, and gloves.

Use of Face Coverings and Masks

When the emergency plan for pandemics or epidemics including provisions for continued or returning instructional activities wherein students and staff will be in school buildings, the plan's provisions concerning the use of face masks by students and staff will be followed. To the extent it can obtain supplies, the School Corporation will provide face coverings or masks to students and employees who do not have their own face covering or mask.

When face masks or face coverings are provided for through state or federal agencies, the students will not be charged a fee for use of the face masks.

Adopted:08-11-2020