MEMORANDUM

TO: New Bedford Public Schools Staff
FR: Thomas Anderson, Superintendent
DT: Tuesday, May 18, 2021
RE: Update: COVID-19 Protocols

This memo is to provide an update on staff and student COVID-19 protocols. Aligned with Governor Baker’s announcement, yesterday, May 17, 2021, and effective today - students will NOT be required to wear masks while outside during recess or during athletic competitions. However, staff must continue to wear masks outdoors when distancing cannot be maintained. Additionally, ALL students and staff will be required to wear masks while inside NBPS facilities consistent with the Governor’s message: Face coverings will also remain required indoors for staff and students of K-12 schools and early education providers.

Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE): Frequently Asked Questions, Week of May 17, 2021

Do students have to wear masks while outdoors?
On May 17th, 2021, after consultation with the MA COVID Command Center’s Medical Advisory Board, the Governor announced that given the low rate of outdoor transmission of COVID-19, students no longer have to wear masks when outdoors, even if distance cannot be maintained. Effective May 18, this guidance update applies to recess, physical education, youth sports, and outdoor learning environments. Adults must continue to wear masks outdoors if distancing cannot be maintained. At this time, adults and students must continue to wear masks indoors.

(click to open the FAQ)

The New Bedford Public Schools do not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, ancestry, homelessness, gender identity, gender expression or immigration status.
Face Covering Guidance
In line with updated CDC face covering guidance, the Administration will rescind the current face covering order and issue a new face covering advisory effective May 29.

Non-vaccinated individuals are advised to continue wearing face masks and to continue distancing in most settings. The advisory will also recommend fully vaccinated individuals no longer need to wear a face covering or social distance indoors or outdoors except for in certain situations.

Face coverings will still be required for all individuals on public and private transportation (including rideshares, livery, taxi, ferries, MBTA, Commuter Rail and transportation stations), healthcare facilities and providers, congregate care settings and health and rehabilitative day services.

Face coverings will also remain required indoors for staff and students of K-12 schools and early education providers. Link to mask guidance