

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

B1:15

School Operations - Health and Safety
COVID – Student Exemption of Non-Medical or Cloth Masks

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Purpose:

Amendments to Administrative Procedure B1:14 COVID-19 Mask Protection for Students were made based on recommendations from the local health units and after a motion was passed by the Board of Trustees to make changes to the current student masking Administrative Procedure to include all students in grades JK–12. On October 19th, 2021, the Board of Trustees Policy Committee carried this recommendation.

JK to grade 12 students will be required to wear non-medical or cloth masks indoors in school, including in hallways and during classes and on transportation, and outdoors where physical distancing cannot be maintained. The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario recognizes that there are students with medical restrictions (severe breathing difficulties, unable to remove mask on their own, etc.) that may require the student to attend school without the use of a mask. When a student is unable to wear a mask, the Board will review the required accommodation, however, it may be necessary due to undue hardship and the safety of staff and students, during the COVID-19 pandemic, that the student be moved to a virtual online learning platform provided by the Board.

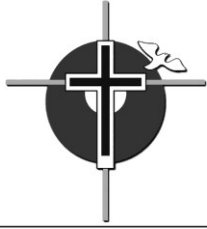
Student Mask Exemption Requirements

- Any student who requires an exemption from wearing a mask must have a diagnosed medical condition or special needs identification that prohibits the use or partial use of a mask
- The parent/guardian for the student must fill in the Student Exemption of Non-Medical or Cloth Masks Form (Appendix A)
- Provide a letter accompanying the form requesting the exemption with a short explanation of why the student cannot wear a non-medical/cloth mask.
- The form and letter must be received by the school prior to commencement of school.

Note: The Ministry of Education will allow all students wearing a mask indoors to remove them when outdoors only if physical distancing can be maintained.

Procedure:

Once a Student Exemption of Non-Medical or Cloth Masks Form (Appendix A) and exemption letter is received by the school the following will occur:



CATHOLIC DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD OF
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- The Administrator or designate will confirm with the parent or guardian that the form was received.
- A copy of the approved form and exemption letter will be placed in the student's OSR.

Attachments:

Appendix A - Student Exemption of Non-Medical or Cloth Masks Form

STUDENT EXEMPTION OF A NON-MEDICAL OR CLOTH MASK

This form is to be used whenever a student is unable to wear a non-medical or cloth mask for the duration of the school day, when accessing school transportation or when a student can wear a mask but must remove it when health conditions worsen.

When a student is unable to wear a mask, the Board will review the required accommodation, however, it may be necessary due to undue hardship and the safety of staff and students, during the COVID-19 pandemic, that the student be moved to a virtual online learning platform provided by the Board.

Steps for Mask Exemption:

1. Parent or guardian completes the Student Exemption of Non-Medical or Cloth Mask Form and returns to the school Administrator or designate.
2. Parent or guardian provides a letter accompanying the Non-Medical or Cloth Mask Form requesting the exemption with a short explanation of why the student cannot wear a Non-Medical or Cloth Mask.

My child has medical issues or a special needs identification that prohibits the:

Continuous use of a non-medical or cloth mask when indoors, and outdoors where physical distancing cannot be maintained.

My child has medical issues or a special needs identification that requires the:

Periodic removal of a non-medical or cloth mask when medical conditions worsen.

ELEMENTS OF RISK NOTICE The risk of health concerns exists when a mask is not worn during a pandemic. Health risks may range from minor influenza-like illness symptoms to severe upper respiratory symptoms. These health concerns from not wearing a mask can occur without fault on either the part of the student, the school board or its employees/agents or the school. The safety and well-being of students is a prime concern and attempts are made to manage, as effectively as possible, the foreseeable risks inherent in the spread of disease in all schools.

I acknowledge and have read the Elements of Risk Notice. Yes

I give permission for my child _____ to attend school without wearing a non-medical or cloth mask or to wear a mask but to be able to remove the mask when medical conditions worsen.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Principal Signature: _____ Date: _____

**Original copy of this form is to be kept in the student's OSR.*