

# Face Mask/Face Coverings Policy for Montessori School in Kleinburg

Policy Established: July 2020 and last updated on Sept. 4, 2021

This Policy has been developed further to the instructions of the York Region's Medical Officer of Health issued on July 10, 2020 which requires businesses and organizations to develop a policy requiring anyone entering their premises to be wearing a Face Covering. A full copy of these instructions can be found at [york.ca/mandatorymasks](http://york.ca/mandatorymasks).

Kindly note that MSK staff will wear both Masks and Face Shields at ALL times.

The Policy applies to any enclosed spaces which are open to the public and where customers interact with one another or staff members. It does not apply to outdoor areas such as patios, whether or not the area is covered.

For the purpose of this Policy, a "Face Covering" means a non-medical mask or face covering such as a bandana, scarf or cloth (including a hijab and niqab) that covers the mouth and nose.

All staff must use their best efforts to prevent anyone from entering the premises if the person is not wearing a face covering while on MSK property. If you see a person entering the premises without a Face Covering, please advise the person of this requirement. Please ensure that they use the hand sanitizer before entering the premises and remind them of the need to maintain a distance of 2meters/ 6 feet from any other person.

Persons could include:

- parents/guardians, clients of the school
- delivery personnel
- persons providing educational services (eg. speech or occupational therapists, Early Interventionist, etc.)
- food service delivery/school caterer
- sales, service (landscaping, snow removal, etc.), cleaning personnel
- trades or repair personnel
- Public Health inspectors, Ministry inspectors/directors

If the person refuses to wear a Face Covering, you may still let them enter the premises. Please remain polite and do not engage in any verbal confrontation.

### **Mask Wearing Exemptions:**

- Children 5 years of age and younger
- Anyone who cannot wear a Face Covering/Mask because of a medical condition (staff or students). Medical proof will be required
- Anyone who cannot place or remove a Face Covering without assistance
- Anyone who refuses to wear a Face Covering based on any ground in the *Human Rights Code*.
- If anyone states that they cannot wear a Face Covering because of any of the above reasons, you may accept their explanation and not require them to explain further or require proof.
- If you see anyone in the premises who has removed their Face Covering/Mask for an extended period, please remind them that the Face Covering/Mask should be worn.

Note that Face Coverings may be removed temporarily for the following purposes:

- receiving services that would require temporary removal;
- consuming food or drink;
- for any emergency or medical purpose;
- while actively engaging in an athletic or fitness activity

**STAFF:** Montessori School in Kleinburg will implement the rule that staff must wear a Face Covering/Mask as of September 1, 2020. Licensees will be expected to ensure that child care staff and child care providers wear face covering/a mask at all times while they are working, to their best ability and that ministry guidelines are followed on the use of masks and face coverings for school age children who are at a child care premises. And specifically:

- when taking a student, parent or staff member's temperature
- performing morning health screens upon student arrivals
- when caring for an ill child
- when diapering or changing a child's soiled clothing
- when cleaning blood spill or bodily fluids (eg. urine, mucus, vomit)
- when physical distancing of 2 meters (6 feet) cannot be maintained

### **Student Masking Requirements**

**Note \*\*\* Students** aged 18 months (Toddlers)- 5 years (Casa) are not required to wear a face mask/face covering.

- **Toddlers-** not required/optional if parent requests child to wear mask
- **Casa-** not required/optional – we highly recommend that 4 and 5 year old wear masks. For 3 year olds – optional if parent requests that child wear a mask
- **Elementary-** MSK will require (mandatory) all Elementary students from Grades 1-8 to wear a face mask or face covering while indoors, in their classroom, and in common areas (eg. the vestibule, hallway).

We will do our very best to ensure that all students wear their masks and are frequently reminded to remove or apply when necessary.

**Proper use, storage and disposal of Face Masks/Face Coverings once used or taken off?**

- Students wearing a mask must be trained on how to remove and dispose a mask or face covering and how to properly store it (in a personal, labeled storage bag or sac) or dispose of it properly in a trash can (if disposable).
- Students are prohibited from disposing of face masks on school property- no littering please!

Should you require additional information, please contact York Region Public Health at 1-800-361-5653). Visit [york.ca/covid19](https://york.ca/covid19) for additional information and resources.

**\*\*\* If any student or adult forgets to bring a mask to wear while on school premises, MSK will provide a disposable mask for a fee of \$1.00.**

**PLEASE SEE BELOW THE LATEST MEMO THAT WE SENT OUT TO CASA FAMILIES ON SEPT. 1, 2021 (in case you missed it). This was based on the last memo that YRPH sent out on August 17, 2021.**

September 1, 2021

Dear MSK Casa Families,

The 2021-2022 school year is quickly approaching and there has been significant discussion, locally and across other health units in Ontario, regarding masking for students in junior and senior kindergarten (JK and SK, respectively).

York Region Public Health is recommending students in junior and senior kindergarten wear masks indoors (as tolerated) while attending school in-person during the 2021-2022 school Year. Other reasonable exemptions would also continue to apply (such as students who have trouble breathing or are unable to wear a mask for medical reasons, temporarily removing the mask when eating).

The reasons for this recommendation have been made on the following information:

- The highly transmissible Delta variant is the dominant strain in York Region necessitating the continued implementation of more cautious infection prevention and control approaches in schools this fall
- The Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table recommends masking for students in junior and senior kindergarten in community settings experiencing high rates of COVID-19 and an upward trajectory of cases
- Recent local modelling shows a rise in cases into the fall with approximately 100 daily cases projected by the beginning of October; reducing compliance to public health measures such as masking and social distancing will result in a steeper rise in cases and a higher overall case counts.
- There is an anticipated increase in other respiratory viruses this fall / winter; universal masking will provide protection against these other viruses as well, and prevent disruption to in-person learning that occurs from time off for COVID-19 testing and

isolation when symptoms compatible with COVID-19 develop

- A statement from the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#) that children aged 2 to 5 may be able to wear a mask if supervised, depending on their ability to tolerate it, as well as put it on and take

Masking in this age group is also critically important for minimizing disruption to in-person learning due to both COVID-19 and other respiratory pathogens at this challenging time. Once the observed rates of COVID-19 decline in our community, this recommendation will be re-evaluated and modified as necessary.

The Casa Department and MSK continues to support this measure and our current policy in highly recommending that students ages 4 & 5 wear face masks while indoors in their classroom. This measure will continue to provide a healthy and safe learning environment for all of our students and staff to lessen the risk and exposure to COVID19 and its variants.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and commitment to helping the MSK School Community stay safe during this time.

Sincerely,

The MSK Casa Department