

Jill A. Davis  
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William J. Collins  
Superintendent-Emeritus



**GREATER LOWELL**  
TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

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January 11, 2022

Dear Greater Lowell Tech Families,

The mask requirement remains an important measure to keep students safe in school at this time. Consistent with the authority provided by the Board, and after consulting with medical experts and state health officials, **the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education is extending the mask requirement through February 28, 2022.** The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will continue to work with medical experts and state health officials to evaluate the mask requirement beyond February 28.

The following mask requirements remain in effect through February 28, 2022:

- Public school students (age 5 and above) and staff in all grades are required to wear masks indoors in schools, except as noted below. Masks are not required when outdoors. All visitors are also expected to wear a mask in school buildings.
- Masks should cover an individual's nose and mouth
- Students and staff who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons and students who cannot wear a mask for behavioral reasons are exempted from the requirement. Face shields may be an option for students with medical or behavioral needs who are unable to wear masks or face coverings. Transparent masks may be the best option for both teachers and students in classes for deaf and hard of hearing students.
- The mask requirement applies when students and staff are indoors at school, except when eating or drinking or during mask breaks.
- Masks are required for any sports-related activity for student-athletes and coaches when indoors, in alignment with guidance provided by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA).
- Masks should be provided by the student/family, but disposable masks should be made available by the school for students who need them.
- By federal public health order, all students and staff are required to wear a mask on school buses.
- In the event that a student removes his or her mask without permission, the behavior management process will be as follows:
  - ✓ teacher gives verbal redirection in class and/or conferences with student in reviewing the expectation and how refusing to comply causes harm to members of the school community;
  - ✓ teacher contacts main office to conference with student and contact parent;
  - ✓ consequences will be implemented for repeated offenses.

In addition, our COVID-19 Medical Response Protocols Section in the Health and Safety Practices and Protocols document (pgs. 4-13) has been revised and posted on our website under Current Alerts. The revisions are based on the recently updated guidance DESE/DPH issued aligned to the guidance recently released by the Centers for

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Disease Control (CDC). The revised guidance shortens the time staff and students need to isolate if they test positive and the quarantine period for close contacts.

It is only through your continued partnership and all of us working together that we can keep our school community safe.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jill Davis".

Jill Davis  
Superintendent-Director