

# Appropriate Facemasks for Staff and Students at Monty Tech

*Language included in the Monty Tech Fall Reopening Plan:*

## Masks/Face Coverings

The standard set forth by the MA Department of Public Health and DESE (supported by Governor Baker's COVID-19 Executive Order No. 31) is that **masks are required at all times**. Public health experts indicate that the best way to stop the spread of COVID-19 and to keep our school community safe is the use of face masks/coverings. Therefore, masks and face coverings will be required for all students and staff while in the building, on school grounds and on school transportation. Masks/face coverings should be worn even when physical distancing is observed. The mask/face covering shall cover the nose and mouth. Per CDC guidance, individuals may be excused from this requirement for the following reasons:

- Trouble breathing
- Is unconscious
- Is incapacitated
- Cannot remove the mask/face covering without assistance

Additionally, students/staff with medical, behavioral, or other challenges who are unable to wear masks/face coverings may have the option of wearing a face shield. Face shields are additional possible mitigation strategies but do not replace the standard and requirement of mask/face coverings and do not provide adequate protection when used alone. Thus, face shields will need to be of the type that have a neck gaiter to properly contain potential respiratory droplets. Parents may not excuse their child from the face mask/covering requirement by signing a waiver. Exceptions to the policy, under aforementioned criteria, must be approved by the building principal in consultation with the school nurse or local Board of Health.

- Masks/face coverings should be provided by the student/family, but extra disposable face masks will be made available by Monty Tech for students who need them. Families should wash reusable masks/face coverings daily.
- If a family is experiencing financial hardship and unable to afford masks/face coverings, Monty Tech will endeavor to provide masks.
- Masks/face coverings are required to be worn by everyone on the bus during school bus transportation.
- As with other apparel in school, all masks/face coverings should not display inappropriate images, phrases, or words, as determined by faculty and administration.

Two-ply cotton facemasks are ideal. Masks can be disposable or reusable and will need to:

- Fully cover the nose and mouth and secure under the chin;
- Be made with at least 2 layers of breathable material;
- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face; and
- Be secured with ties or ear loops

Facemasks such as neck gaiters, open-chin triangle bandanas, and face coverings containing valves, mesh material or holes of any kind will not be considered appropriate masks and will not be allowed.

