The StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit (K-12) Interim Guidance, was updated on July 21, 2021, and is effective July 30, 2021, to align to the CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools.

The CDC recommends mask use indoors for people who are not fully vaccinated, including students grades 9th-12th, workers, teachers, guests, other adults, and children aged two (2) or older, unless an exception applies. Because children under 12 do not currently have access to vaccinations, it is expected that all students under age 12 will continue to wear masks. In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors. However, particularly in areas of substantial to high transmission, CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated. (StrongSchoolsNC: Public Health Toolkit (K-12) Interim Guidance, page 8.)

To provide a safe, quality, in-person learning experience for our students (five days per week) and to keep our schools and community operational, Clinton City Schools strongly recommends all students wear a mask while indoors in our schools and facilities, except during meal times, to protect themselves as well as others. Parents may opt-out their children from wearing a mask by completing a CCS Opt-Out Form. This form is available online, at the school office and is also included in the Student/Parent Handbook.

Clinton City Schools requires that bus drivers and students riding the school and/or activity bus wear a mask while on the bus. For extracurricular activities that allow for physical distancing and no more than one person per seat for the duration of the trip, students with a completed CCS Opt-Out form will be excluded from the mask requirement.

To provide a safe, quality, in-person work environment for our employees (five days per week) and to keep our schools and community operational, Clinton City Schools strongly recommends that all teachers and staff wear a mask while indoors in our schools and facilities, except during meal times, to protect themselves as well as others. Any teacher and staff member who chooses not to wear a mask should be mindful that a mask should be worn when working closely with students and other employees. Teachers and staff should employ best practices when determining when a mask may be adversely interfering with a student’s ability to concentrate on learning. Teachers and staff may opt-out of wearing a mask by completing a CCS Opt-Out Form. This form is available online, in the principal's office, from your immediate supervisor or from the Human Resources office.

Clinton City Schools will ensure that a layered mitigation strategy is in place in all schools and facilities, including physical distancing, ventilation, hand hygiene, adequate access to diagnostic and screening testing and closely monitoring for increases in COVID-19 cases. (StrongSchoolsNC: Public Health Toolkit (K-12) Interim Guidance, page 9.) Face coverings/masks will be provided to all students who need them, including buses.

Clinton City Schools will review and/or revise implemented measures monthly (or as often as necessary) as guidance from local, state, and federal public health officials and school data change.

This guidance was approved by the Clinton City Schools Board of Education during a Specially Called Meeting on July 28, 2021, by a vote of 5 to 1.