

## **LEGISLATIVE FACE MASK POLICY**

*Approved by Joint Rules Committee on 3/29/22 (revised from [1/12/22](#))*

Except as otherwise provided in this policy, all individuals over two years of age entering legislative spaces in the Capitol Complex, including the State House, 1 Baldwin St., 2 Aiken Ave., and 4 Aiken Ave., and other locations being used for legislative purposes (including study committees, task forces, and panels composed of at least one member of the General Assembly) are strongly recommended to wear a facial covering (mask), regardless of vaccination status.

As an exception to the foregoing, facial coverings are required:

- (1) in legislative staff office spaces unless otherwise agreed to by the legislative staff; and
- (2) in legislative committee rooms during any period of time in which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention rates Washington County to be at a High COVID-19 Community Level.

Strongly recommended facial coverings should and required facial coverings shall:

- (1) completely cover an individual's nose and mouth;
- (2) be a medical procedure or surgical mask, or be similarly made of multiple layers of non-woven polypropylene material; an N95, KN95, KF94, or similar grade mask; or a more protective grade mask;
- (3) be secured to the head with ties, ear loops, or elastic bands that go behind the individual's head; and
- (4) fit snugly over the nose, mouth, and chin with no large gaps at the sides of the face.

Any legislator who wears a facial covering shall conform to the chambers' custom of prohibiting props in debate.

In all instances when facial coverings are not being worn, effort should be made to ensure appropriate distance is maintained between individuals.

This policy shall take effect upon its approval by the Joint Rules Committee and shall remain in effect until otherwise provided by the Joint Rules Committee. Notice of this policy shall be conspicuous, appear on the legislative webpage, and be posted by the Sergeant at Arms as soon as practicable in the affected spaces.