



## Are Masks Required By MSBA Policy?

Many districts are making difficult decisions on whether students, employees and visitors are required to wear masks in school and when. Several districts have asked if MSBA policy covers this topic.

Policy EBB, Communicable Diseases, requires that the district follow state and local law or the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) regulations regarding the control of disease. But currently there is no state law or DHSS rule mandating masks. MSBA encourages districts to communicate regularly with local municipalities and comply with local health orders. But if there is no applicable order or ordinance in effect, your MSBA policy does not mandate the use of masks, and the district is free to determine if masks should be worn in the district's schools.

Districts should be familiar with and consider the recommendations of health authorities. Masks are recommended for most students most of the time by the [Centers for Disease Control](https://www.cdc.gov). The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) have also issued a [guidance](#) recommending masks. But these are just recommendations.

MSBA has recently partnered with DESE and the Missouri Hospital Association in their [Mask Up](#) campaign. For questions, contact the MSBA Legal Department.