



**#042-21**

**Commonwealth of Virginia**  
**Virginia Department of Education**  
Superintendent's Memo #042-21

DATE: February 12, 2021  
TO: Division Superintendents  
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction  
SUBJECT: CDC Face Mask Order

This is to notify all school division superintendents that the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) has been informed that the federal Center for Disease Control (CDC) has recently issued an 11-page order requiring the wearing of masks on all forms of public transportation in the United States to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. CDC, as the primary federal agency responsible for public health guidance related to the pandemic, [has issued this order to implement presidential Executive Order No.13998](#).

Please note that the CDC has subsequently further clarified the following regarding applicability of the order to school buses: *“School buses are included because the order applies to state and local conveyance operators (public schools), and passengers onboard such conveyances. The order also applies to private school buses because these are conveyances operated for a non-personal, commercial use.”*

Governor Northam's Executive Order [E072](#), as well as presidential Executive Order [E013998](#), require wearing of face masks on school buses. You are advised to inform your staff about this recent CDC mask order, and ensure that they comply with its mandate for the safety of all students and staff, and to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. CDC guidance on Respiratory Hygiene recommends that *“Children under age 2, or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance should not wear masks.”* This guidance can be found in the document [“Operational Considerations for Schools.”](#)

## For more information

If you need additional information, please refer to the [FAQ section on VDOE's website](#), or contact Vijay Ramnarain at (804) 225-2774 or [Vijay.Ramnarain@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Vijay.Ramnarain@doe.virginia.gov), or Kerry Miller at (804) 225-2772 or [Kerry.Miller@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Kerry.Miller@doe.virginia.gov).

JFL/VR/aam