

**FACE COVERING/FACE SHIELD EXEMPTION**

A student in grades K-12 may be exempt from the requirement to wear a “face covering” at school if a “medical authority” certifies that the student has a health condition, disability, or mental health, developmental, or behavioral need that makes a student unable to tolerate wearing a face covering. A student will then be expected to wear a face shield unless a medical authority certifies that the student is unable to tolerate a face shield because of a medical condition.

- “Face covering” means any paper or disposable mask, cloth face mask, medical-grade mask, scarf, bandanna, neck gaiter, or religious face covering that can be worn to cover the nose and mouth completely in accordance with CDC guidance. Masks with valves, mesh, openings, holes, vents, or visible gaps in the material are not sufficient face coverings.
- “Face shield” is a clear plastic barrier that covers the face, extends below the chin, and wraps around the sides of the face to the ears. An adequate face shield should have no exposed gap between the forehead and the shield’s headpiece.
- “Medical authority” means a medical doctor, clinical psychologist, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner who has seen or treated the student.

**If you believe that your child is exempt from wearing a “face covering” and/or “face shield,”** you must sign this form and have a “medical authority” sign and complete this form. An exception will be made if the need for an exemption is obvious or Seven Hills Preparatory Academy already possesses information that demonstrates the need for an exemption.

Please email this form to the appropriate campus principal and copy the corresponding school nurse. Bloomington Campus: [bpeterson@shpamn.org](mailto:bpeterson@shpamn.org) and [mpeters@shpamn.org](mailto:mpeters@shpamn.org); Richfield Campus: [cfarrell@shpamn.org](mailto:cfarrell@shpamn.org) and [jerickson@shpamn.org](mailto:jerickson@shpamn.org). The School will make the final determination of whether the student qualifies for an exemption.

**TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/GUARDIAN**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ School of Attendance: \_\_\_\_\_

**I certify that the information on this form is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.**

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**TO BE COMPLETED BY MEDICAL AUTHORITY**

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Clinic: \_\_\_\_\_

Clinic Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Clinic Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Based on personal knowledge from examining, treating, or reviewing the medical records of the student who is identified above, I certify that the following is true and accurate (check those that apply and identify condition):**

\_\_\_\_ The student is unable to tolerate wearing a face covering at school because of the following health condition, disability, or mental health, developmental, or behavioral need:

\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_ The student is unable to tolerate a face shield at school because of the following medical condition:

\_\_\_\_\_.

Signature of Medical Authority \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MNAAP) has expressed support for children wearing face coverings with limited exceptions. MNAAP recommends considering whether the child is capable of physically removing their face covering in the event of an emergency. If yes, MNAAP generally believes most children should wear a face covering. A child should be exempt from wearing a face covering if the child has a medical condition that prevents the child from removing the face covering in an emergency. Examples including children with severe cognitive issues, significant sensory challenges, significant respiratory impairments (e.g. tracheostomy or on oxygen), or an orthopedic or neurological issue (e.g. cerebral palsy) that prevents the child from removing the face covering in an emergency.*