The health and safety of our students, staff, and parents at The Charter School of Wilmington is our top priority. Scientific evidence confirms that use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is effective in reducing exposure to and spread of COVID-19. So PPE use, such as face coverings, is an important part of The Charter School of Wilmington’s Prevention Plan.

In compliance with state mandates (page 7 – DOE Returning to School), anyone on campus is required to wear a face covering at all times. Masks may be removed while eating and drinking but social distancing must be maintained. Remember, masks need to cover both your mouth and nose at all times. If you are unable to wear a mask for any reason, including medical exemption, you will not be granted access to the building or campus.

Acceptable face coverings include homemade fabric masks or disposable (basic) grade surgical masks. Masks must be a solid color and must not have any slogan or graphics displayed. Masks will be provided to anyone who forgets to bring one to the building or campus. Protective eyewear (e.g., goggles, glasses, etc.) is also part of CSW’s Prevention Plan.

Questions? Please refer to the CDC’s Considerations on Masks.

The implementation of this policy will also ensure we continue to protect against the spread of disease. Thank you for your continued commitment to protecting each other and our community during this challenging time.

Notes:
1Further direction on face masks while participating in school sports will be forthcoming (will follow DIAA guidance).

2The purpose of masks is to keep respiratory droplets from reaching others to aid with source control. However, masks with one-way valves or vents allow air to be exhaled through a hole in the material, which can result in expelled respiratory droplets that can reach others. This type of mask does not prevent the person wearing the mask from transmitting COVID-19 to others and is not an acceptable face covering. Therefore, CDC does not recommend using masks for source control if they have an exhalation valve or vent. Additionally, bandana-style masks, scarves and neck gaiters are not acceptable face coverings.

Eye Protection
Scientific evidence indicates that eyes are an effective entry point for COVID-19. Anyone who chooses to wear protective eyewear may choose to do so at any time. While eye protection will not be required to be worn at all times, certain activities (e.g., close collaborative or physical work) may require its use by students and/or colleagues. In such instances, CSW will provide these items.

Approval Date: 8/25/20
Effective Date: 9/8/20