

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Title of Rule: Masking in School
Rule Identifier: 216-RICR-30-05-4
Rulemaking Action: Proposed Adoption

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: February 2, 2024
Hearing Date: March 15, 2024
End of Public Comment: March 20, 2024

Rulemaking Authority:

R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 23-1-17 and 23-1-18

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

The Rhode Island Department of Health is proposing to adopt Masking in School (216-RICR-30-05-4) for the purpose of publicly setting forth the rationale for a masking requirement in the event a future masking requirement is promulgated by the Rhode Island Department of Health for students in grades Kindergarten through twelve in Rhode Island.

Additional Information and Public Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed adoption until March 20, 2024 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

Zachary Garceau
Department of Health
3 Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908
zachary.garceau@health.ri.gov

Public Hearing:

A public hearing, in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.5, to consider the proposed adoption shall be held at which time and place all persons interested therein will be heard. This hearing is subject to R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-46, Open Meetings.

Public Hearing Information:

Date: March 15, 2024
Time: 9:00 A.M.
Location: Department of Administration
One Capitol Hill
Conference Rooms A, B, and C
Providence, RI, 02908

The seating capacity of the room will be enforced and, therefore, the number of persons participating in the hearing may be limited at any given time by the hearing officer in order to comply with safety and fire codes.

The place of the public hearing is accessible to individuals with disabilities. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call 401-408-2747 or RI Relay 711 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting. For questions regarding available parking, please contact the agency staffperson listed above.

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

In development of this rule, consideration was given to:

1. Alternative approaches;
2. Overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions; and
3. Significant economic impact on small business

No alternative approach, duplication or overlap was identified based on available information. RIDOH has determined that the benefits of the rule justify its costs.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.