

April 6, 2023

To Parents and Guardians

Minato City, Nanzan ES
Principal Noriaki Kobayashi

Revision of the School Mask Policy from the First Term of the 2023 Academic Year

Since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, our school has been conducting academic activities based on the "Revised Guidelines for the Operation of Minato City Kindergartens, Elementary and Junior High Schools in Response to the Spread of the Novel Coronavirus [October 25, 2021 (Mon)]."

On March 17, 2023, the Japanese government announced its basic policy on the revision of the mask wearing points to keep in mind when conducting entrance ceremonies and other events in the "Review of the Policy on the Use of Masks at Schools from the New Term onward" (No. 2507 of the 4 Education and Culture Ministry's Initial Report on March 17, 2023).

We ask for your understanding and cooperation as we will be taking the following measures from April 2023.

Notice

1 Regarding the revision on mask wearing

- Students and teachers are not required to wear masks during school academic activities.
- When using crowded trains or buses, such as during rush hours, visiting medical institutions, elderly care facilities, and during field trips, and masks may be required to be worn by students and faculty members.
- Some students may wish to wear masks for various reasons, such as having an underlying medical condition, while others may not be able to wear masks due to health reasons. Therefore, schools and teachers will not force students to wear or not wear masks.
- We will continue to provide appropriate guidance to ensure that there is no prejudice or discrimination among students based on whether or not they wear masks.
- When infectious diseases, including seasonal influenza as well as new coronavirus infections are prevalent, teachers and staff may wear masks or encourage students to wear masks. In such cases, however, no one will be forced to put on or take off a mask.
- As in the past, students will be instructed to use cough etiquette when coughing or sneezing.

2 About the School's Educational Activities

- During the school's educational activities, the following "Examples of school activities with a relatively higher risk of infection" will be conducted after ventilating the area.

The style of learning and physical distance will not be restricted in order to enhance the students' school life.

【Examples of school activities with a relatively higher risk of infection.】

- Group work, etc. in which students are face-to-face
- Activities that require speaking in a loud voice.
- Experiments and observations conducted by students in groups.
- Singing, playing the recorder, keyboard harmonica, etc.
- Activities put on by students that involve expression and appreciation, such as collaborative work,

etc. · Cooking practice by students in groups.

- Exercises involving teamwork in P.E. class.

Educational activities not listed above will also be conducted after proper ventilation. The same applies to club and committee activities.

3 Notes on the Entrance Ceremony, etc.

· In the future, we will not require the wearing of masks at ceremonial events such as entrance ceremonies, etc., provided that appropriate ventilation is provided.

· When singing the national anthem, school song, or when activities are performed by multiple students, the seating area will be arranged in such a way that the students do not touch each other, although the length of the physical distance will not be specified. The number of participants and the size of the venue will also be taken into consideration.

· For guests, parents, etc., the wearing of masks is at the discretion of the individual, and the distance between seats should be such that they do not touch each other. However, until May 7, 2023, ward employees are required to wear masks. Therefore, staff seated near the guest seating area will wear masks. Masks will be removed at the podium during the reading of the congratulatory address at the entrance ceremony.

· We will not limit the number of guests and parents/guardians attending due to infection control measures in the future. If we must do so, we will inform the parents/guardians of such restrictions.

· Similarly, for athletic and cultural events such as Sports Day, in the future we will not limit the number of parents or guardians who can participate for the reason of infection control.

· In the future, school events such as ceremonial events, athletic events, and cultural events will not be shortened for the reason of infection control.

For matters pertaining to school events not listed above, we will take actions based on the normal practices prior to the epidemic.

4 Measures to be taken when eating school lunches, etc.

· When eating school lunches and other meals, everyone will thoroughly wash their hands before and after eating, just as before the measures to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. We will also instruct students to be careful not to speak loudly or spread droplets.

- Proper ventilation will be ensured for the eating environment.

For matters related to school lunches and other food service not listed above, we will try to take actions based on the normal practices prior to the epidemic.

<Inquires>

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