

1 COMMITTEE ON RULES AND LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

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3 **Policy on Public Health and Safety in Response to COVID-19**
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5 In order to protect the Minnesota public, legislators, legislative staff, and their families
6 and household members, and under the responsibilities outlined in Mason's Section 805,
7 paragraph 1, and in accordance with state and federal guidelines, the Committee on Rules and
8 Legislative Administration adopts the following policies and responsibilities in response to the
9 ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

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11 **(1) All members and employees must wear a mask.**

12 A mask must be worn at all times by any member or employee present in the House
13 Chamber, a committee hearing room or meeting space, or any other space controlled by the
14 House of Representatives in the Minnesota Capitol Building or State Office Building, or at any
15 other location where legislative business is conducted. The mask must be properly fitted to fully
16 cover the wearer's nose and mouth consistent with guidance issued by the Minnesota
17 Department of Health (MDH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). A
18 member or employee is not required to wear a mask when working alone in a private office
19 space so long as the door is closed, or when directed by their physician.

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21 **(2) Conduct of business and meetings involving House employees.**

22 No House employee shall be allowed in the House Chamber, a committee hearing room
23 or meeting space, or any other space controlled by the House of Representatives in the
24 Minnesota Capitol or State Office Building, if any person present is not properly wearing a
25 mask, as described in clause (1). At no time shall a House employee meet with someone who is
26 not properly wearing a mask, as described in clause (1), in a space controlled by the House of
27 Representatives, or in a space where legislative business is conducted. House employees must
28 continue to use virtual meeting platforms and electronic communications whenever possible.

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(3) Conduct of floor sessions, committee hearings, and other official meetings of House members.

During floor sessions, committee hearings, and other official meetings of House members, the presiding officer must not recognize a member who is not in compliance with clause (1). A member who removes their mask to speak on the House floor has ceded the floor and the presiding officer shall no longer recognize them, and any motion made by the member must not be recognized. A member attending a House committee meeting in person must be in compliance with clause (1) to be recognized to speak by a Chair. A member in attendance who has the floor and removes their mask in a committee hearing room has ceded the floor, and any motion made by the member must not be recognized by a Chair.

(4) Additional requirements and precautionary measures.

The Speaker may further require or refine by memo any additional requirements necessary to protect the health and safety of the public, members, and staff.

Members and employees should take all recommended precautions to protect the health and safety of themselves and others, including but not limited to social distancing, washing their hands often, and staying at home when necessary, consistent with current guidance issued by MDH and CDC.

All members and employees must contact Human Resources if they experience symptoms (cough, fever, sore throat, or other common symptoms identified by MDH or CDC); if they test positive for COVID-19; or if they have been in close contact with someone who is confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 so that contact tracing can take place.

(5) Enforcement.

A member who fails to comply with this policy may be subject to referral to the Committee on Ethics.

A House employee who fails to comply with the provisions of this House policy may be subject to disciplinary action by the House.

Date adopted: January 6, 2021

Signed: 
RYAN WINKLER, CHAIR