



Mask Guidance for School-Aged Children

Recent guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics reinforces that face coverings are a proven, effective way to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Cloth face coverings can be safely worn by all children 2 years of age and older, including the vast majority of children with underlying health conditions, with rare exception.

Should a child be required to wear a mask during school?*

The child has asthma.



YES

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology recommends that individuals with asthma wear a mask in public.

The child has a condition such as autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability, or a mental health disorder.



YES

These conditions do not necessarily justify a mask exemption unless the child is unable to wear a mask without excessive trauma. Practice mask-wearing, try behavioral techniques or mask modifications to overcome challenges.

The child cannot communicate clearly while wearing a mask.



YES

Explore instructional adaptations or use a face mask with a clear plastic insert as appropriate.

The child cannot remove the mask on their own.



NO

Encourage the family to consider virtual learning opportunities or discuss use of face shield.

The child is asleep, unconscious or has active difficulty breathing.



NO

*There may be children that have experienced trauma and find masks hard to wear due to their past experiences.

For more information and tips for helping children wear masks, visit <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Cloth-Face-Coverings-for-Children-During-COVID-19.aspx>

Sources: Kansas COVID Workgroup for Kids, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and American Academy of Pediatrics