

Mask Guidance for School-Aged Children

The CDC recommends the use of non-medical grade cloth face coverings in public settings where other physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain. When used with other risk mitigating efforts, non-medical grade masks can further reduce the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in public areas and a school building.

Masks are considered safe for most children and youth over the age of two years. **There are very few exceptions for wearing masks.**

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 or frequent manipulation.
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.
The child is asleep or unconscious.	 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://bit.ly/345nb4l>

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

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