






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?*

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| The child has asthma. |  YES <p>Asthma does not justify a mask exemption. The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology recommends that individuals with asthma wear a mask in public</p> |
| The child has a condition such as autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability, or a mental health disorder. |  YES <p>These conditions do not necessarily justify a mask exemption unless the child is unable to wear a mask without excessive trauma or frequent manipulation.</p> |
| The child cannot communicate clearly while wearing a mask. |  YES <p>Explore instructional adaptations or use a face mask with a clear plastic insert as appropriate.</p> |
| The child cannot remove the mask on their own. |  NO <p>Encourage the family to consider virtual learning opportunities.</p> |
| 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://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