**{INSERT PHYSICIAN PRACTICE INFORMATION}**

**COVID-19 Physician Form for Student Mask Exemption**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, children should wear face masks at school, except when they have a written medical excuse from a physician due to a valid underlying health issue. While many children may initially be apprehensive about wearing a mask, most adjust quickly. Masking is safe; there are no negative effects of wearing a mask. Masks have been recommended for children with serious lung diseases such as asthma and advanced cystic fibrosis with severe respiratory difficulty long before the pandemic began and have had no impact on their ability to breathe.

There are very few circumstances where a health reason would prevent a child from wearing a mask. Blanket exemptions for face coverings or masks are not appropriate unless for medically contraindicated categories. The [Centers for Disease Prevention and Control](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/cloth-face-cover.html)[[1]](#footnote-1) and the [American Academy of Pediatrics](https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Cloth-Face-Coverings-for-Children-During-COVID-19.aspx)[[2]](#footnote-2) list conditions for which face coverings are not recommended, including:

1. Children under age 2,
2. Any child unable to remove the face covering without assistance,
3. A child with a significant behavioral or psychological issue undergoing treatment that is exacerbated specifically by a face covering,
4. A child with severe autism or with extreme developmental delay who may become agitated or anxious wearing a mask, and
5. A child with a facial deformity that causes airway obstruction.

Resuming in-person classroom instruction safely and without interruption is everyone’s goal. With COVID-19 transmission still widespread, consistent use of masks on school campuses reduces risk to students and staff, and puts schools in a better position to achieve successful and sustained reopening.

**The physician’s signature indicates the child named below should not be required to wear a mask at school due to a valid health concern.**

 has a health condition that should excuse this child from having to wear a mask at school.

 (Name of Physician) (Signature of Physician) (Date)

***This document contains personal health information. Please retain securely in student’s school health records.***

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1. [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/cloth-face-cover.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/cloth-face-cover.html) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Cloth-Face-Coverings-for-Children-During-COVID-19.aspx](https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Cloth-Face-Coverings-for-Children-During-COVID-19.aspx) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)