



Refined Face Mask Requirements for Schools

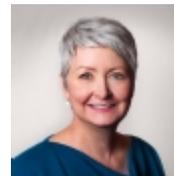
The Director of the Arizona Department of Health Services issued [Emergency Measure 2020-04](#) today (November 19, 2020). The Emergency Measure, entitled “Slowing the Spread of COVID-19 in Schools,” modifies and builds upon the face mask requirements for public schools that were included in [Executive Order 2020-51](#), which was issued by the Governor in July. The new Emergency Measure applies to all school districts and charter schools. The Emergency Measure:

- Clarifies that any individuals who are on school campuses, on school buses, or who are participating in or attending school-associated activities, including athletics, are subject to the mandatory face mask requirements.
- Clarifies that the face mask requirements of EO 2020-51 apply to all individuals who may be on a school campus or at a school-associated activity, including visitors and contractors.
- Reduces the age for mandatory mask wearing (subject to some exceptions) to children who are age 2 or older. EO 2020-51 required face masks only for children age 5 or older.
- Provides an exception for mask wearing for “students who are engaged in high intensity activities, like running,” but only if wearing a mask “causes difficulty breathing.”
- Maintains the face mask exceptions found in EO 2020-51 for anyone who has “trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.”
- Maintains the face mask exception found in EO 2020-51 for those times when students can socially distance or are outside on the playground and can socially distance.
- Requires that students be allowed to take off their face masks during breaks if they are “in a safe environment.”

The Emergency Measure is effective immediately.

Please let us know if we can help you navigate the requirements of this new Emergency Measure or any of the other COVID-19 issues you may be facing.

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