

New Emergency Order on Face Coverings in Schools

Communication from Arizona Department of Education

Dear School Leaders,

This letter is to inform you of the [new Emergency Order](#) issued earlier today by Dr. Cara Christ, Director of the Arizona Department of Health Services, requiring district and charter schools to immediately mandate that masks are worn on school campuses, on school buses and during school-associated activities by all students, faculty, staff, contractors, and visitors.

Please take a moment to read the Emergency Order in-full.

[Read the Emergency Order](#)

Each school district and charter school shall immediately mandate that masks are worn on school campus, on school buses, during school-associated activities, and while participating in or observing any school-associated athletic activities, by all students, faculty, staff, contractors and visitors.

- Exceptions shall be made for instances when students can socially distance or are outside in playground settings with distancing, and students shall be allowed to take their masks off during breaks and while in a safe environment.
- Students who are engaged in high intensity activities, like running, shall not be required to wear a mask if it causes difficulty breathing.
- Masks should not be worn by children under the age of 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- School districts and charter schools shall abide by other restrictions and exceptions consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including recommendations for those who have sensory, cognitive, or behavioral issues.

Notwithstanding any other law, if ADHS becomes aware of continued actions taken by the entities covered by this Emergency Measure that jeopardize the health, safety and welfare of the public, ADHS will take additional action as necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Sincerely,
Arizona Department of Education