

# Questions From Parents About Face Masks

Guthrie supports the CDC guidelines for minimizing the spread of COVID in the school setting. These are the guidelines provided to all school districts which were used to develop their plans for the 2020-21 School Year.

Regarding masks, the CDC states: "When used consistently and correctly, cloth face coverings are important in helping slow the spread of COVID-19. Other important mitigation strategies include [social distancing](#), [washing hands](#), and [regular cleaning and disinfecting](#) frequently touched surfaces in schools and buses."

## **Requests for Exemptions to Masking Requirement:**

Guthrie supports all area school districts in their efforts to successfully implement their plans, including requirements for masking. Routine requests for a medical exception to mask wearing will not be granted by Guthrie. If a parent or guardian feels a medical exception is necessary due to a health condition, an appointment should be scheduled to discuss this concern with the child's provider.

## **Parents May Ask:**

Q: *Why not just wear a mask when feeling ill?*

A: COVID-19 can be spread to others even if you do not feel sick. A [cloth face covering](#) helps prevent a person who is sick from spreading the virus to others.

Q: *It's too much to expect young children to wear a mask. Aren't there some children who should not wear a mask?*

A: 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. Your child's health care provider will discuss any issues that may be a concern for your child while wearing a mask.

Q: *Our family doesn't believe that face masks are necessary.*

A: Guthrie supports the area school districts in their plans to reopen schools safely. Our health care providers will speak to parents who feel a medical exception is needed. If a medical exception is not indicated for your child, please speak to your school district administrator about your concerns.

