



2021 Mask Policy FAQ

9/2/2021

Q. Why is the Louisville City School District mandating masks for all students and staff?

To keep the maximum number of students and staff in school so that we can provide the best education possible without disruption. We know that in-person learning is essential for the development of our children.

When students wear a mask, they are less likely to be quarantined if they come in contact with a COVID - 19 positive case in a classroom setting. If an unvaccinated student is in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual in school, that student can remain in-school, in-person and participate in extracurricular activities and sports, as long as that student was wearing a mask and is showing no symptoms of COVID-19

Our data from last year tells us that students perform better academically if they receive in-person instruction. Therefore, we will keep our students in the building receiving in-person instruction by implementing this policy.

Q. Does this mean my child cannot be quarantined from school?

No, it does not. If your child is not wearing a mask and is not vaccinated, your child could still be quarantined if they are identified as a close contact.

Examples:

- The Health Department may mandate that a student be quarantined due to an off-campus exposure.
- Being a close contact during an extracurricular activity, indoors or outside.

Q. When does the mask mandate go into effect?

Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

Q. Where will this mask mandate be in effect?

The mask mandate will be in effect in all Louisville City School buildings and on school buses.

Masks will not be necessary outside of our school buildings. This means that students, staff, and community members will not be required to wear masks if they are on our grounds outside and not in a building.

Examples:

- Recess
- Outdoor Sporting Events



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Q. Will I still be notified if my child is a close contact with a positive COVID case?

Yes, anyone identified as a close contact will receive information from the Stark County Health Department as part of a COVID-19 investigation.

Q. Are students able to wear a shield instead of a mask?

No, students will need to wear a mask that covers their mouth and nose. Masks will be available at the school building for students who do not have one.

Q. What is the process for students/ staff with COVID symptoms?

We will follow guidance from the Stark County Health Department. Please note state and local guidelines are subject to change at any time.

Q. What if I refuse to allow my child to wear a mask?

Unless provided with a valid medical exemption, all students and staff at Louisville City Schools will be required to wear a mask while the mask mandate is in effect.

Q. If my child is vaccinated, why do they have to wear a mask?

As a school system, we currently do not have a way to know who is vaccinated. Even if someone voluntarily tells us that they are vaccinated, we do not have a system in place to accurately identify who is vaccinated or unvaccinated. Our goal is to keep all of our students in school so that they can receive the best education possible without disruption. All students and staff will be required to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status.

Q. When will this mask mandate end?

We will review the data and make a decision regarding the mask mandate at the end of September.