

The StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit (K-12) Interim Guidance, was updated on August 18, 2021, and is effective July 30, 2021, to align to the CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools.

*The CDC recommends mask use indoors for all people including students, teachers, and staff in K-12 settings. Children under 2 years of age should not wear a mask. In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors. However, particularly in areas of substantial to high transmission, CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated (StrongSchoolsNC: Public Health Toolkit (K-12) Interim Guidance, page 9).*

To provide a safe, quality, in-person learning experience for our students (five days per week) and to provide a safe, quality, in-person work environment for our employees, Clinton City Schools will require all students, staff, parents and visitors to wear a mask while indoors and within a closed environment (such as classroom, offices, media centers, etc). Although Clinton City Schools strongly recommends that a mask be worn at all times while indoors, masks will not be required during short transitional times throughout the day, including arrival to school, transitions to another classroom, bathroom or area of the school facility, and afternoon departure. Clinton City Schools will not require masks indoors when students are engaged in physical activity. As outlined within the StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit, other exceptions to the face covering requirement are:

- people who due to any medical or behavioral condition or disability, including, but not limited to, any person who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious or incapacitated, or is otherwise unable to put on or remove the face covering without assistance;
- any individual under 2 years of age;
- all individuals who are actively eating or drinking;
- anyone who is seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing-impaired in a way that requires the mouth to be visible;
- anyone who is giving a speech for a broadcast or to an audience (StrongSchoolsNC: Public Health Toolkit (Interim Guidance), page 9-10).

Moreover, as noted on page 9 of the StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit, *the CDC has issued an order that applies to all public transportation conveyances, including schools buses. Regardless of the mask policy at school, all passengers and drivers should wear a mask on school buses, including on buses operated by school systems, subject to the exclusions and exemptions in CDC's Order.* In response to this federal order, Clinton City Schools will require masks to be worn by all individuals being transported on any CCS school or activity bus.

Clinton City Schools will continue to ensure that *a layered mitigation strategy is in place in all schools and facilities, including physical distancing, ventilation, hand hygiene, and closely monitoring for increases in COVID-19 cases* (StrongSchoolsNC: Public Health Toolkit (K-12) Interim Guidance, page 10).

Face coverings/masks will be provided to all students, staff, parents and visitors who need them.

Clinton City Schools will review and/or revise implemented measures as often as necessary and no less than monthly, as guidance from local, state, and federal public health officials and school data change.