

School Masking Facts

What public health experts in Erie County want you to know.

Keeping kids in school is the most important way to mitigate the stress of the COVID-19 pandemic and care for children's mental and behavioral health.

Masks work

to protect individuals and reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission (even if not required).

Source: CDC MMWR, bit.ly/MMWR7106

No mask

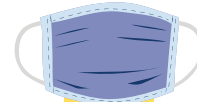


Cloth mask



56%
lower
chance of
getting
COVID-19

Surgical Mask



66%
lower
chance of
getting
COVID-19

Respirator
(N95/KN94)



83%
lower
chance of
getting
COVID-19

Schools are unique settings.

Masking in school lowers risk of getting COVID-19 through in-school contact.



Close proximity



Long periods
of exposure

Vaccines are vital

among school-age children to keep them safe from serious risks.

Ages 5-11 - COVID-19 vaccination rate* in Erie County



Ages 12-17 - COVID-19 vaccination rate* in Erie County



*Percentage of children with two Pfizer COVID-19 doses as of Feb. 27, 2022.
Source: County-level data from the New York State Department of Health.

Vaccination is the best defense against Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C).

Source: CDC MMWR, bit.ly/MMWR7102

Vaccination
reduced
likelihood by



Adolescents
hospitalized
were 95%
unvaccinated.



No vaccinated
kids or teens
required life
support.



Erie County
Department of
Health



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

www.erie.gov/covid19

Adapted with permission from Finger Lakes Schools Reopening Safety Health Workgroup and Common Ground Health. Updated 2/28/2022.