



2021 Initial Intake Form Mask Wearing Limitations for Manitoba Schools

The purpose of this form is to allow a parent or guardian to indicate that their child falls under the criteria for an exception to the mandatory mask policy for schools. A school or school division that receives this form may request additional information from the parent or guardian.

In keeping with the spirit and intent of the strong recommendations from Public Health, considering the stated preference of the Division's staff (including the Manitoba Teachers' Society), and the feedback from community parents, the Kelsey School Division has made the decision that masks will be mandatory for all staff, students and visitors in our K-12 schools and on school buses for the commencement of the 2021-2022 school year. These requirements are subject to limited exceptions, which are listed below. In addition to practising the public health fundamentals of staying home when you are ill, performing regular hand washing/sanitizing, practicing good cough etiquette, and wearing a non-medical mask may help prevent spreading COVID-19 to others, especially in indoor public spaces when physical distancing of two metres cannot be maintained.

There are very few medical conditions that warrant an exception to the directive mandating non-medical masks be worn on the bus or while at school. If a parent or guardian is concerned about their child's ability to safely wear a mask, they should speak with their child's health care provider.

While a medical note from a health care provider is not required by Public Health or Manitoba Education to accommodate a child's limitations with respect to their child wearing a mask in school or on a school bus, the school division or school may request a note be provided by a parent or guardian from a health care provider to determine whether an exception to the mandatory non-medical mask wearing in schools or on a school bus directive applies to a child.

Inappropriate exceptions to mandated mask wearing have the potential to inadvertently compromise the overall measures related to public health that are implemented in schools to mitigate risk to all and to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in Manitoba schools and communities.

Health care providers have been advised of the following exceptional circumstances which may warrant consideration of an exception to directive mandating mask wearing in schools and on school buses. That is, a child is exempt from being required to wear a mask in school or on a school bus because he or she:

- is under the age of 5 years either chronologically or developmentally and refuses to wear a face covering and cannot be persuaded to do so by their caregiver;
- has severe sensory processing disorders;
- has facial deformities that are incompatible with masking;
- has post-traumatic stress disorder triggered by a face covering;
- has extreme agoraphobia/asphyxia phobia (which is longstanding and pre-dates COVID-19);
- has a medical condition unrelated to COVID-19, including breathing or cognitive difficulties or a disability, which prevent them from safely wearing a mask;
- has a cognitive impairment, intellectual deficiency or autism spectrum disorder for whom wearing a face covering will cause severe distress or disorganization; or
- is unable to apply or remove a covering without help.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL



Application for Exemption for 2021 – 2022 School Year

This section is to be completed by the parent and/or guardian and submitted to the school principal with appropriate documentation, if and when requested.

In completing this form, I _____
(Name of parent/guardian)

confirm that one or more of exceptional circumstances listed above applies to my child,

(Name of student)

I understand and agree that additional information, medical or otherwise, may be required to establish a need for an exemption, including any limitations necessitating the exemption or setting out the parameters of the exemption or my child.

I hereby authorize the school division to collect and use the information provided as part of this application in accordance with *The Privacy Notice*, attached hereto.

In making this request, I understand that this exemption applies only for the 2021-2022 school year and that this exemption may be revisited and/or modified should circumstances within the school division change.

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

For Administration Use Only

Exemption Granted _____

Exemption Denied _____

Exemption Deferred _____

If Exemption Deferred, please include the rationale and expected duration for the Deferral:

Other Details / Comments:

Date

Principal Signature



PRIVACY NOTICE

The Kelsey School Division is collecting your personal information in order to determine whether your child falls into an exception to the School Division's directive mandating masks be worn in schools and on school busses.

The Kelsey School Division is authorized to collect your child's personal information under subsections 36(1)(b), 37(1)(c),(e) and (m)(ii) of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (C.C.S.M. c. F175) (FIPPA) and your child's personal health information under subsections 13(1) and 14(1)(c) and (c.1) of *The Personal Health Information Act* (C.C.S.M. c. P 33.5) (PHIA). Your child's personal information will only be used by the Kelsey School Division to determine whether your child falls into an exception to the School Division's directive mandating masks be worn in schools and on school busses.

Your personal information is protected by PHIA and FIPPA. The Kelsey School Division cannot use or disclose your child's personal information or personal health information for other purposes, unless you consent or the Kelsey School Division is authorized to do so by FIPPA or PHIA.

If you have any questions or concerns about the School Division's collection of your child's personal information or personal health information, please contact Selena Mell, Superintendent of Schools for the Kelsey School Division.