Face Masks and Children:

There is no research to date on the safety of face masks for children worn for prolonged periods of time. There have been some recent reports of harm in addition to child deaths who were wearing face masks while engaging in physical activity:

-  In Germany, two 13-year-old children died suddenly while wearing a mask for a prolonged period of time; autopsies couldn’t exclude CO2 intoxication or a sudden cardiac arrest.

-  In China, several children who had to wear a mask during sports classes fainted and died; the autopsies found a sudden cardiac arrest as the probable cause of death.

Source: <https://swprs.org/face-masks-evidence/>

Psychological Damage in Children (September 11, 2020).

[*https://www.world-today-news.com/70-doctors-in-open-letter-to-ben-weyts-abolish-mandatory-mouth-mask-at-school-belgium/*](https://www.world-today-news.com/70-doctors-in-open-letter-to-ben-weyts-abolish-mandatory-mouth-mask-at-school-belgium/)

* 70 Belgian doctors begged for cancellation of mask mandate at school. “In recent months, the general well-being of children and young people has come under severe pressure. We see in our practices an increasing number of children and young people with complaints due to the rules of conduct that have been imposed on them.  We diagnose anxiety and sleep problems, behavioral disorders and fear of contamination. We are seeing an increase in domestic violence, isolation and deprivation. Many lack physical and emotional contact; attachment problems and addiction are obvious.  **‘The mandatory mouth mask in schools is a major threat to their development. It ignores the essential needs of the growing child. The well-being of children and young people is highly dependent on the emotional connection with others.** (…) The aim of education is to create an optimal context so that a maximum development of young people is possible. The school environment must be a safe practice field. **The mouth mask obligation, on the other hand, makes the school a threatening and unsafe environment, where emotional connection becomes difficult.** **‘In addition, there is no large-scale evidence that wearing face masks in a non-professional environment has any positive effect on the spread of viruses, let alone on general health.’**
* Recent study (in German) cultured 82 bacterial colonies & 4 mold (fungoid) colonies from a child’s masks after 8 hours of wear.
* Reuse of cloth masks, frequency and effectiveness of cleaning, and poor filtration may result in increased risk of infection.

World Health Organization (WHO), June 2020

* “The disadvantages of the use of mask by healthy people in the general public include:
  + increased risk of self-contamination due to the manipulation of a face mask and subsequently touching eyes with contaminated hands;
  + potential self-contamination that can occur if non- medical masks are not changed when wet or soiled, which increase likelihood of microorganisms to reproduce;
  + potential headache and/or breathing difficulties, depending on type of mask used;
  + development of facial skin lesions, irritant dermatitis or worsening acne, when used frequently for long hours;
  + difficulty with communicating clearly;
  + discomfort;
  + a false sense of security, leading to potentially lower adherence to other critical preventive measures such as physical distancing and hand hygiene;
  + waste management issues; improper mask disposal leading to increased litter in public places, risk of contamination to street cleaners and environment hazard;
  + difficulty communicating for deaf persons who rely on lip reading;
  + discomfort and difficulty wearing masks, especially for children, developmentally challenged persons, those with mental illness, elderly persons with cognitive impairment, those with asthma or chronic respiratory or breathing problems, those who have had facial trauma or recent oral maxillofacial surgery, and those living in hot and humid environments.

Above information from following source: <https://aapsonline.org/mask-facts/?fbclid=IwAR25_h2smQ-8WNrcLcfaaVKQCYYBbN3qyG8Zddir1XEipiD9LpAtUpAZFh8>

**Even surgeons SHOULDN’T wear face masks! Clinical trial research found 50% MORE patient infections among surgeons wearing masks compared to surgeons not wearing a mask! https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/1853618/**

Additional information related to children and face masks, please see articles below:

<https://thehill.com/opinion/education/514742-masks-for-all-children-arent-needed-or-ethical>

<https://swprs.org/face-masks-evidence/>

Research on Effectiveness of Face Masks:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/04/150422121724.htm>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25903751/>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18500410/>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33254499/>

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2006372>