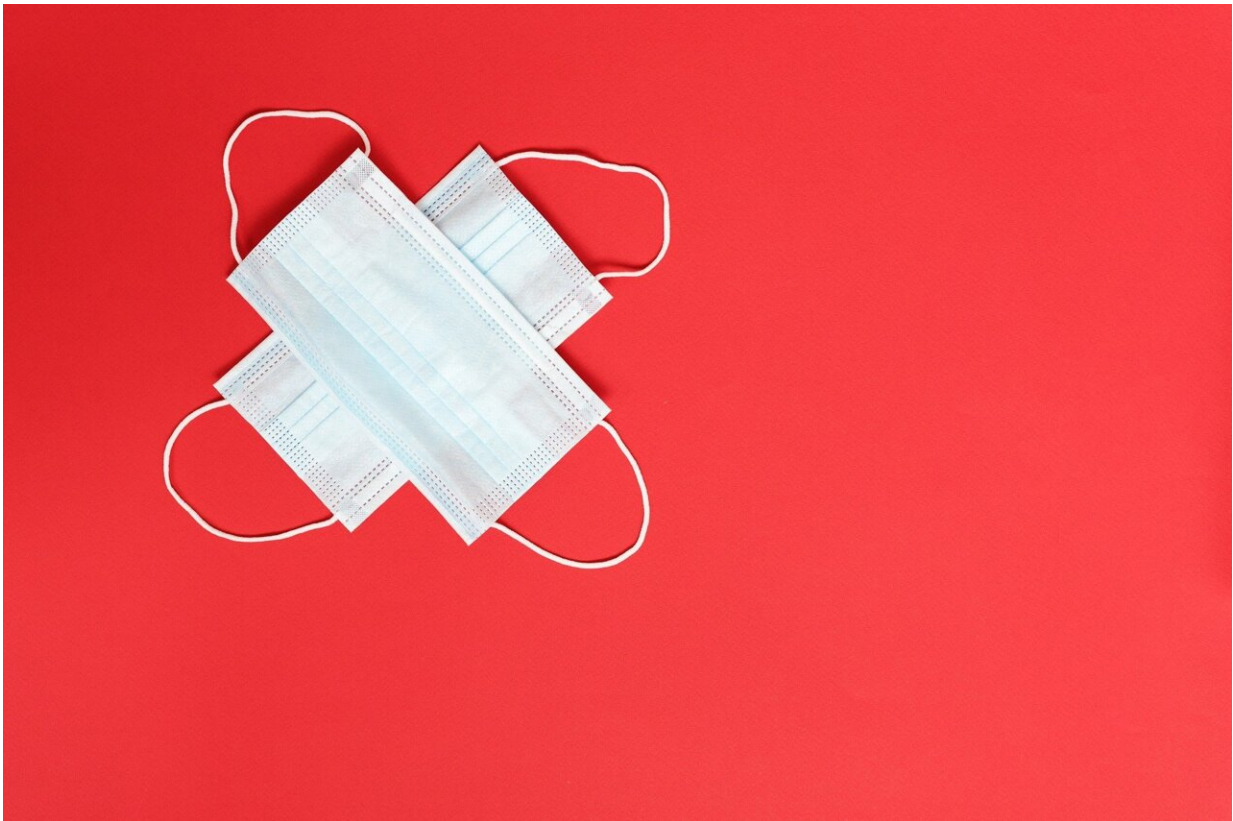


# American College of Physicians says masks should be required in schools

August 16 2021

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The American College of Physicians (ACP) said today that, in agreement with recent recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) masks should be required in schools as part of a

comprehensive public health strategy to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

"As a country, we have all been watching the number of COVID-19 cases rising precipitously over the past month. We need to ensure that we are availing ourselves of the [public health measures](#) available to us to combat this spread," said George M. Abraham, MD, MPH, FACP, FIDSA, president, ACP. "This should include requiring all individuals, students, teachers, and staff, to wear [masks](#) in schools."

Earlier this year ACP issued a [Policy Statement on Wearing Masks in Community Settings](#). That policy recommended that governors require the wearing of masks in public facilities in their respective states, including schools. This recommendation is in agreement with guidance on masks in AAP's [COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools](#).

"Masks are a key public health tool in keeping everyone in our [school](#) communities safe," continued Dr. Abraham. "Especially with such a large segment of our schools' populations unable to yet access COVID-19 vaccines, masks remain a necessity in our fight to control the COVID-19 pandemic."

Provided by American College of Physicians

Citation: American College of Physicians says masks should be required in schools (2021, August 16) retrieved 5 May 2023 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-08-american-college-physicians-masks-required.html>

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