



Amendment to the Order of the Erie County Department of Health Order of August 23,2021
Requiring Masks in Schools

On August 23, 2021 the Department issued an order directing that face coverings be worn
in all public and private preschools, primary and secondary schools in Erie County as a result of the recent
significant increase in the incidence of COVID-19 within the County. The order, in Section 3, contained
the following exception to this requirement:

- vi. Individuals with a bona-fide religiously based objection to wearing a face covering;

It has become apparent that this exemption is being misapplied in a manner that has the
potential to substantially undermine the overall effectiveness of the order and that it has created significant
confusion regarding its proper application. Additionally, we have been unable to identify any coherent
religious doctrine or faith-based system of beliefs that requires its adherents to refrain from covering their
mouths and noses. Consequently, in order to preserve the effectiveness of the underlying order I have
determined that the exception set forth in Section 3 (vi) of the order should be rescinded. Effective
immediately, the order is amended accordingly.



Melissa Lyon, MPH, CPH
Director
Erie County Department of Health

August 26, 2021
Date