

Special Olympics Arkansas Mask Guidance (update 11/16/21)

**All safety protocols apply to vaccinated and non-vaccinated persons.
We are approaching every event with the upmost focus on safety.**

Special Olympics Arkansas with the guidance of CDC recommends that people wear masks in public settings, at events and gatherings, and anywhere they will be around other people. However, in accordance with the Arkansas State guidance on masks released in quarter 1 of 2021 wearing a mask at **Outdoor** Special Olympics Arkansas functions will be at the discretion of the individual, school, or agency. Masks will be required to participate in any **indoor** event. Any event venue policy/guidelines will supersede this guidance. If the venue policy requires masks then all participants will be required to wear a mask to attend.

Example: If the agency requires masks and you are traveling to a Special Olympics Arkansas event then you will follow the guidance and policy of the agency.

Example: Southside High school track requires all patrons to wear a mask to enter their site. So for the Special Olympics Arkansas Track and field competition held there all participants must comply.

Example: Anytime Fitness is hosting a powerlifting competition inside. All participants, coaches, and volunteers must wear a mask while inside the venue.

******Exceptions to the mask guidance will only be made with a Doctor's note.**

As a reminder, there are some of our participants who may be at higher risk for contracting COVID-19 and should remain safe at home through all phases of the SO READY plan. To see who might be considered high risk please read the [high risk fact sheet](#).

Other participants who should remain safe at home include those who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, been exposed to COVID-19 in the 7 days prior to the training or competition, or have COVID-19 symptoms that include a history of recent (last 14 days) temperature > 100.0 F

Details about protecting yourself according to the CDC:

- Wear [a mask that covers your nose and mouth](#) to help protect yourself and others.
- [Stay 6 feet apart from others](#) who don't live with you.
- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces.
- [Wash your hands often](#) with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available.

**Throughout this document "participants" are defined as all athletes, Unified partners, coaches, volunteers, family members, caregivers, staff or others in attendance of an activity.

Additionally, the information in this document is not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. The knowledge and circumstances around COVID-19 are changing constantly and, as such, Special Olympics makes no representation and assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of this information. Further, you should seek advice from medical professionals and/or public health officials if you have specific questions about symptoms and/or diagnoses related to COVID-19