



To Whom it May Concern,

The person in possession of this letter is a member of the Autism Community. A diagnosis of autism is included in the criteria of exception from wearing face coverings as detailed below;

- *Children in 2nd class of primary school or younger.*
- *A person with a respiratory condition*
- ***A person with additional needs who may become upset or distressed wearing one***
- *A person unable to remove it without help*
- *A person who is unconscious or incapacitated*

The Department of Education circular dated 30th November 2021 states that “in some cases schools will be best placed to identify children whose complex needs are such that the wearing of face coverings may not be possible for them and in such circumstances a medical certificate will not be required for exemption”.

Autism is considered to be an invisible disability, therefore you may not know from meeting or interacting with a person that they are on the autism spectrum, however, the child’s school will be aware of their diagnosis and exemption.

It is also open to autistic students to obtain a medical certificate to provide an exemption on sensory grounds should the school not grant one by default.

To support members of our community at this time, AsIAM would ask that you show kindness and understanding that the holder of this letter or someone they care for may not be in a position to wear a face covering for reasons outlined above.

Kind Regards,
The AsIAM Team

For more information please visit AsIAM.ie