

Email from Dr. Shamez Ladhani to Just Facts, August 30, 2021:

Masking is just one of many mitigations that can be implemented in institutional settings such as schools and it may contribute to infection control as part of a more comprehensive package of infections control measures, but I have yet to see any convincing evidence that masking in and of itself significantly contributes to reducing infection and transmission in such settings. On the other hand, as a paediatrician and a parent, it is my opinion that firstly it is not fair on children to wear face masks all day and secondly masking is more than likely to interfere with learning, social, emotional and speech development of toddlers and young children because they are unable to see the faces of their peers and the adults looking after them. Therefore, I am of the opinion that we should opt for not masking young children until we have more robust evidence of its effectiveness, especially given that the virus usually causes mild, self-limiting illness in young children.