



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

June 1, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians:

This letter is to address the usage of N95 masks for children.

With the start of the school summer break, students may be spending more time outdoors at home if they are not attending summer classes. The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) is advising parents and guardians to take precautions during ashfall events and reduce exposure by ensuring their children and infants remain indoors. Remaining inside a building where windows and doors can be temporarily closed will provide protection from ashfall for children and adults.

Children should **not** use N95 particulate-filtering face masks. N95 certified masks are an adult-size, and will not protect children and infants.

N95 masks provide protection from dust/particulates only, and **do not** protect against sulfur dioxide (SO₂) gases and vapors. Anyone with pre-existing respiratory, heart disease, or other health conditions is advised to consult their healthcare provider before use.

For more information, please visit:

<https://vog.ivhnh.org/sites/default/files/mask%20-%20HC15MAY2018V3.2.pdf>

or call the Poison Help Line at (800) 222-1222 to talk with a registered nurse or toxicologist 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Sincerely,

Bruce S. Anderson, Ph.D.
Director of Health