

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CHILD CARE LICENSING (CCL)
ABOUT FACE MASKS FOR UTAH CHILD CARE
(8/13/2020)**

It is important to understand that many people, including children, may have COVID-19 without showing any symptoms, and that wearing cloth face coverings reduces the chance of transmitting the virus through the spray of respiratory droplets. It is also crucial to recognize that facial expressions and lip movements during child care interactions are an important part of children's development, so adaptations should be allowed to address children's needs without compromising the general health of the public. Therefore, due to the serious current public health circumstances and the potential lethal consequences of COVID-19, the benefits of wearing face masks in child care have to be taken seriously.

Please know that wearing a face mask is not the only way to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Small groups of children, constant hand washing, keeping physical distance when possible, proper sanitation practices, screening for symptoms, not allowing symptomatic individuals in the facility, and constant hygiene education are also essential to make sure child care facilities can continue to operate safely. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) have determined that the practice of "cohorting" groups of children and caregivers is a very effective way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in child care settings. "Cohorting" means keeping groups of children and their caregivers together throughout as much of the day as possible and not intermixing the groups. [Read more from CDC...](#)

Recommendations:

1. Staff who have direct contact with parents or the public, such as front desk workers, should be required to wear face masks while working. Also, staff who "float" between classrooms, such as those used to give breaks to caregivers, should also be required to wear face masks.
2. Every child two years old and older and each staff member should wear a face mask as they arrive to their classroom and when in public settings. They should be encouraged to wear a mask throughout the day as circumstances allow.
3. Face masks should NOT be worn by children younger than two, anyone who has trouble breathing, sleeping children, and anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or unable to remove a mask without assistance.
4. Consider special precautions and adaptations for children and staff with severe cognitive or respiratory impairments and those who are immunocompromised.
5. Face shields may be a temporary alternative for situations in which intentional facial expressions are needed to allow for developmentally appropriate communication with children. However, face shields are not a substitute for masks. Those who choose to wear a face shield should also wear a mask.
6. Child care providers must be in compliance with each applicable local law and ordinance in order to remain open.

Important links

Coronavirus.utah.gov

[CDC - Considerations for Wearing Masks](#)

[Utah's Health Guidance System](#)

[CCL Phase 3 - Emergency Conditions for Child Care](#)