

Face Coverings in Child Care FAQ

The below is meant to provide information related to the implementation of Executive Order 20-37 Face Covering Requirement in child care programs. The full Executive Order can be found [here](#).

Are face coverings required for child care?

Yes, The Executive Order that began on June 27th applies to child care programs.

Are Early Education teachers required to wear face coverings?

Yes, early education teachers, staff, and personnel that are working in a child care setting are required to wear face coverings.

Are child care homes considered a public space and thus required to follow the Governor's Executive Order for face coverings?

During child care hours, child care homes are considered a public space and thus would fall under the Governor's executive order. It is important to remember that the purpose of wearing a face covering is to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Within a child care home there may be even less space to practice social distancing making face coverings an even more vital part of the strategy to supporting public health.

Can children with asthma wear face coverings?

Asthma is not an exclusion for masks. In fact, many asthmatic patients wear masks routinely to avoid airborne triggers.

Do teachers need to wear face coverings when they are outside monitoring play time or recess?

Yes, teachers should wear face coverings unless they are able to maintain social distancing.

Are children required to wear masks during outside play?

If it is not possible for children who are outside playing, and 8 years or older, to maintain six feet of social distance from another child then they would need to wear a mask.

Do children and staff have to wear a mask while traveling in a van during the child care day?

Yes, the executive order outlines that face coverings are to be worn while using public transportation or while in a private car service or ride sharing vehicle. This would also apply to vehicles being utilized for purposes of transporting children during the child care day.

Where can child care staff and children go to get tested for COVID-19?

Optum testing sites are available statewide. In order to access a testing site staff or families can call 888-634-1116 or visit <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2524.htm>

Are children over the age of 2 and under the age of 8 required to wear face coverings?

In accordance with the Governor's Executive order no, children over the age of two and under the age of 8 are not required to wear face coverings but are strongly encouraged to do so. Some counties have enacted orders that may require children over the age of 2 to wear face coverings so please check with local authorities regarding your particular community.

Will OECOSL be enforcing the Governor's Executive Order during a licensing visit or if they receive a complaint that a child care is not adhering to the Executive Order?

If the employees and volunteers are not wearing masks but the provider does have precautions in place

to help prevent the spread of a communicable disease this will be noted in the narrative/note section that will be given to the provider stating that this is a requirement and at our next visit they will be cited if the issue continues.

Do the teachers, who work in infant and toddler classrooms have to wear masks while they are in their own classrooms (since the children won't be wearing them)? If so, can they wear face shields instead?

The teacher would need to wear a face covering to slow the spread of COVID-19 even if working in the infant/toddler room. A face shield is acceptable during instruction requiring facial visualization, but a face covering is required for all other times.

Is a child care program that is being held inside a church considered a public place and thus subject to the EO for wearing face coverings?

Yes, a church for the purposes of child care is a public place. When a building is being used for religious assembly, then assembly regulations apply.

What should child care programs do if families refuse to send children without masks to child care?

Child care programs should update their family handbooks and/or send out communication to families regarding expectations to wear face coverings for children 8 years and older. This communication should outline the actions a provider will take anytime a family violates policies outlined in the parent handbook.