



Eric Holcomb, Governor
State of Indiana

**Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School
Learning**
402 W. WASHINGTON STREET, ROOM W362, MS02
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

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Dear Hoosier Family,

The health and safety of children, families, and child care providers is the top priority for the Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning. As our state moves through stages of the Indiana Back on Track Plan, you may notice your child care provider increasing their health and safety measures to comply with local and state requirements.

The CDC recommends that people wear cloth face covering in public settings and when around people who live outside their household, especially when social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. On Wednesday, July 22, the State of Indiana issued an executive order requiring face coverings in all public spaces to reduce the spread of COVID-19; this policy became effective Monday, July 27, 2020. According to this executive order, face covering requirements take effect in all public spaces, which includes all licensed and registered child care programs during their hours of operation. Please note, the Executive Order states 8 years of age and older although some counties and cities have implemented a face mask requirement that may start at 3 years and older. The program will need to follow the following requirements:

- All teachers, staff and personnel are required to wear face coverings.
- Children ages 8 and older are required to wear face coverings, unless your program is operating in a county with a mandate for face coverings on individuals ages 3 and older.
- Face coverings are to be worn in both outdoor and indoor spaces when six feet of distance between individuals is difficult to maintain.
- Face coverings should NOT be worn by children under the age of 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

Some counties and cities may have provided additional health and safety requirements for child care providers in their area. To support families and child care providers in meeting these requirements, SPARK Learning Lab has created the attached resources and tools. Additionally, you can visit the Brighter Futures Indiana website for more resources to support re-entry into the workforce. These resources can be found at <http://brighterfuturesindiana.org/backtowork/>. You may also call 1-800-299-1627 to speak with their local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agency and learn more about resources to support the development and well-being of their child and care available in their area.



Helping Children and Families with Face Masks

The best way to protect yourself and your children from the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 is practicing social distancing and by wearing a face mask when going places. Adults may find it easier to comply with these recommendations more than children. Here are some ways to assist children and families in getting comfortable with wearing masks.

Helping Families and Children Get Comfortable with Mask Wearing

Wearing a mask is becoming a very real part of a child's day, especially when they leave the home.

- Some children may find them uncomfortable and have trouble keeping their mask on all day.
- Children may also find them scary or strange because they are not able to see facial expressions.
- Consider the child with special needs, what accommodations do they need during this time?

Taking action

Help children and families become confident wearing a face mask. Share important information with them on how to help their child become more comfortable.

- First, familiarize yourself with the guidance from The Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning (OECOSL) as they continue to update child care programs and stakeholders at [COVID-19 \(coronavirus\) guidance for OECOSL stakeholders](#).
- Review and share the linked resources to support staff, children and families.

How to get more help

Contact the SPARK Learning Lab Help Desk for support at 1-800-299-1627. We are available Monday - Friday 6:00 AM - 7:00 PM and Saturday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM EST.

Source(s)

¹ Meet the Helpers. (2020, April 29). Wearing a Mask Helps Stop the Spread of Germs. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLO1GNXKmNE&feature=youtu.be>

² National Center for Pyramid Model. (2020, July, 01). Usando Mascara. https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/docs/Wearing-Masks_Story_SP.pdf

³ Supporting Positive Environments for Children. (n.d). Covid-19 Sequence Cards. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_sHp1EIdTAhScFDUHNyoTE3Dmwn4uwPd/view

⁴ National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations. (2020, June, 2020). Helping Children Understand Emotions When Wearing Masks. https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/docs/Wearing-Masks_Tipsheet.pdf

⁵ Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. (2020). I Can Stay Healthy by Wearing a Face Mask. <https://rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter/Links/documents/ICanStayHealthybyWearingaFaceMask-F.PDF>

⁶ Advanced Cardiac Therapies Improving Outcomes Network. (n.d) Tips for Helping Kids Wear Masks. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_sHp1EIdTAhScFDUHNyoTE3Dmwn4uwPd/view

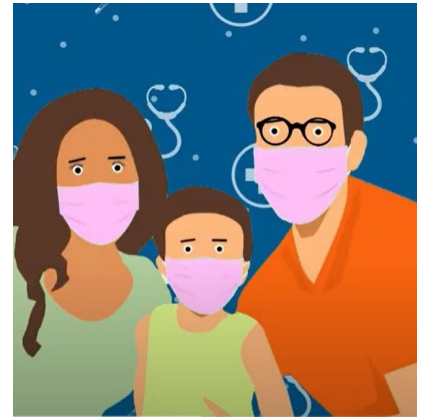
Helping Children and Families with Face Masks

Meet the Helpers

Wearing a Mask Helps Stop the Spread of Germs

This child-friendly video explains how germs are spread when we breathe, cough, sneeze or talk. Children can be germ busters by wearing a cloth mask. Medical masks should be saved for Helpers, like doctors and nurses, who are working to make people feel better. To learn more, go to meetthehelpers.org.

<https://youtu.be/OLO1GNXKmNE>



National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations

Usando Mascaras

Children are curious about the world around them. Since wearing a mask has become the new normal, this child-friendly resource by the National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations offers guidance in Spanish for children around when we typically wear masks, who wears them, and how to properly wear them outside of the home.

https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/docs/Wearing-Masks_Story_SP.pdf



Supporting Positive Environments for Children

Supporting Positive Environments for Children & Sequence Cards

Sequencing cards can help children understand and recognize a pattern. Print and share these cards with children to help them learn the new routine of wearing a face mask.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_sHp1EIdTAhScFDUhNyoTE3Dmwn4uwPd/view



National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations Helping Children Understand Emotions When Wearing Masks

The National Center for the Pyramid Model Innovations provides guidance on helping children understand the importance as well as considering the emotions behind wearing a mask. This resource provides tips to help you provide the social connections that children need to feel safe and secure.

https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/docs/Wearing-Masks_Tipsheet.pdf



National Center for
**Pyramid Model
INNOVATIONS**

Rutgers Boggs Center & Children's Specialized Hospital

I Can Stay Healthy By Wearing a Face Mask

The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities and Children's Specialized Hospital have developed a resource to help children understand and feel comfortable wearing face masks. This printable book shows children different types of masks, mask care and how wearing a face mask can help prevent them from getting or giving an illness to someone else.

<https://rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter/Links/documents/ICanStayHealthybyWearingaFaceMask-F.PDF>



Advanced Cardiac Therapies Improving Outcomes Network Tips for Helping Kids Wear Masks

Advanced Cardiac Therapies Improving Outcomes Network provides multiple resources on the importance of wearing a mask and how to be a 'Health Hero' during this current pandemic. This resource provides you with a list of tips on how to help children wear a mask and to make the process seem less scary.

<https://med.umich.edu/mott/thrive/tips-for-helping-kids-wear-masks>



Be a
Health Hero!



You support Hoosier
children and families.
Let **SPARK** support you!

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