

MASK OPTIONS FOR ECE PROGRAMS

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AGENDA

Current LA DPH Mask Guidelines

Current Best Practices for ECE Programs

Mask Options for ECE Programs

Exemptions from Mask Requirements

Questions & Contact

CURRENT LA DPH MASK GUIDELINES

- Indoor mask wearing rules and recommendations in LA County change based on federal, state, and county requirements and the LA County CDC COVID-19 community level and transmission rate;
- In certain settings in LA County, masks are required (e.g., health care settings, congregate care facilities);
- Masks are also required if someone has COVID-19 or is in close contact to someone with COVID-19.

CURRENT LA DPH BEST PRACTICES FOR ECE PROGRAMS

- Visitors: It is strongly recommended that all visitors, including parents and caregivers, regardless of vaccination status, bring and wear masks when they are indoors at the facility. ECE programs should make masks available to those who arrive without them.
- Children: It is strongly recommended that all children ages 24 months and older wear a highly protective mask when they are indoors at the facility. ECE sites are not required to provide masks to enrolled children. Masks should be removed during nap time or when children are eating and drinking.

MASK OPTIONS FOR ECE PROGRAMS

- Businesses, including ECE programs, may require masks even if they are not required by local, state, or federal health departments:
 - If masks will be required, put this policy in writing and make sure all parents/caregivers have sufficient notice of the policy;
 - Implement process to assess requests for exemptions from mask requirements and make reasonable accommodations

EXEMPTIONS FROM MASK REQUIREMENTS

- Persons younger than 2 years old;
- Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a mask;
- Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication;

EXEMPTIONS FROM MASK REQUIREMENTS (cont ...)

- Processing medical/disability related exemption requests:
 - Engage in interactive process- work collaboratively with family to identify a reasonable alternative that would allow the ECE program to serve the family while protecting the employees and other families.
 - Reasonable alternatives are determined on case by case basis: a) weekly testing of unmasked children; b) increased ventilation; c) alternative options such as face shields.
 - Reasonable accommodations may not be an option when possible alternatives create a) direct threat to health or safety of others; b) undue burden for the business; or c) a fundamental alteration of the business.

QUESTIONS & CONTACT

- Public Counsel's Early Care & Education Law Unit within the Community Development Project provides free legal assistance to qualifying child care providers in LA County.
 - For more information, visit:
<https://publiccounsel.org/issues/children-youth-families/early-care-education/> and find our online application here: <https://publiccounsel.org/issues/community-development/early-care-education/get-help/>

Please contact us with any questions:

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