



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Early Learning Division



September 7, 2021

Dear Provider,

The Early Learning Division (ELD) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) published an updated version of [“Child Care Provider COVID-19 Requirements and Recommendations”](#) with the latest health and safety practices for early care and education (ECE) programs. The changes are effective immediately. The update includes statewide protocols that were put in place to address increasing COVID-19 cases due to the Delta variant.

ELD has suspended most routine, in-person licensing visits at this time. Please note that licensing specialists will still be available virtually to support you and help ensure the health and safety of children in your care.

Below are some of the changes covered in the “COVID-19 Requirements and Recommendations” update:

### **Statewide Indoor Mask Requirement**

Governor Brown issued a [mandate for indoor face coverings](#), effective August 13, 2021, that applies to all Oregonians ages 5 and up regardless of vaccination status. Children under five (5) who are not in kindergarten or children in 0 to 5 preschool programs, particularly children in classrooms with 3- to 5-year-olds, will not have to wear a face covering. Staff providing child care in all licensed and recorded settings, including home-based care, are required to wear a face covering while indoors.

In accordance with [CDC recommendations](#), ELD and OHA strongly recommends that children aged 2-5 years old wear face coverings if the child is able to be successful while wearing it. **If a child is attending grades kindergarten and up, they are required to wear a mask.** Note: The federal law requiring face coverings on public transportation, including school buses, applies to children ages two and up.

### **Statewide Outdoor Mask Requirement**

Regarding [Governor Brown’s outdoor mask requirement](#), child care programs may continue to follow existing OHA guidance and will not be required to wear masks outdoors. When possible, programs should make every effort to maintain physical distancing between children and adults while outside.

### **School and School-Based Vaccine Requirement**

On August 19, 2021, Governor Brown issued a [requirement](#) for all teachers, educators, support staff, and volunteers in K-12 schools to be fully vaccinated by October 18, 2021. **This requirement applies to early learning and child care programs located in K-12 school settings.** It does *not* apply to programs outside of K-12 schools. Child care, preschool, and recorded programs operating in schools—meaning

public, private, parochial, charter or alternative educational programs offering grades kindergarten through 12 or any part thereof—are included in this requirement. The OHA published [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about the requirement and [medical](#) and [religious](#) exception forms for [OAR 333-019-1030](#).

Due to these recent changes, ELD is offering providers an opportunity to order a free supply bundle, which includes adult and child face coverings. To order supplies, complete the form on the [ELD website](#) and have your license/provider number ready.

If you have questions, please contact your licensing specialist or email the Office of Child Care at [ProviderContact@state.or.us](mailto:ProviderContact@state.or.us). Providers are also encouraged to [subscribe to ELD's Child Care Update](#) e-newsletter for the most up-to-date information.

Thank you,

The Early Learning Division