

Masking and Child Care

(Updated 3-14-2022)

Layers of prevention strategies continue to be the best way to protect against COVID-19. Child care providers may choose to require masking at their program. Child care staff and families may also decide to wear masks. Licensed child care providers must follow the Early Learning Division's "[Child Care COVID-19 Requirements and Recommendations.](#)"

The Early Learning Division (ELD) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) support program and family choice to continue masking.

Masks are still recommended for the following situations:

- Everyone two years and older returning to child care should wear a well-fitting mask for the five days following their five-day COVID-19 [isolation](#) period.
- During periods of high [COVID-19 community transmission level](#), universal indoor masking is strongly recommended.
- During periods of medium [COVID-19 community transmission level](#), those who are at higher risk for severe illness or caring for children who are at risk of severe disease are recommended to wear a mask. These include those who:
 - Are unvaccinated or not [up to date](#) on vaccination.
 - Are immunocompromised.
 - Have disabilities.
 - Are living with people at high risk or unvaccinated.
 - Have [underlying health conditions](#).

Strategies to help implement masking guidance in child care programs include:

- A clear, written policy that is available to staff, families, and visitors.
- Staff training on the policy and how to educate families and visitors on the policy.
- Family engagement efforts to increase policy awareness.
- Clear accessible signs at entrances and throughout the child care facility.
- Extra masks to provide staff, children, and visitors who do not have a mask.
- A clear, written protocol for responding to complaints.

For resources and regular updates on COVID-19, visit [OHA](#).

Additional resources:

- The Oregon Health Authority's [mask requirements and recommendations](#)
- The CDC's "[When to Wear a Mask or Respirator](#)" tool can help providers decide when and how to implement a layered approach based on COVID-19 community transmission at the [county level](#).
- The Early Learning Division's [COVID-19 Resources](#)
- The CDC's detailed [COVID-19 guidance for child care programs](#)
- Get a [COVID-19 test](#) or [vaccine](#)
- The Oregon Health Authority's [If You Test Positive helpline](#)

Document accessibility: For individuals with disabilities or individuals who speak a language other than English, OHA can provide information in alternate formats such as translations, large print, or braille. Contact the COVID-19 Communications Unit at 1-971-673-2411, 711 TTY or COVID19.LanguageAccess@dhsosha.state.or.us.