

# QUICK REFERENCE FOR CHILD CARE: MASKS



## When to wear masks

### Where and when face masks are required at child care organization gatherings

Environment	Fully Vaccinated Individuals, ages 2 years and older	Unvaccinated Individuals, ages 2 years and older
Indoors	Recommended	Required*
During Transportation	CDC requires masks during transportation	CDC requires masks during transportation
Outdoors	Recommended but not required	Recommended but not required

A good faith effort accepted, as defined by the [Gatherings and Face Mask Order](#).

## Exceptions

- ▶ **Age:** Cloth face masks should never be placed on young children under age 2.
- ▶ **Medical condition:** Anyone who cannot medically tolerate a cloth face mask, has trouble breathing, or is unable to remove the face covering without assistance should not wear a face mask.
  - ▶ Providers with staff that claim the medical exemption to wearing a face mask should view MIOSHA guidance on this topic and contact MIOSHA's COVID-19 hotline with any questions: 855-SAFEC19 (855-723-3219).
- ▶ **Eating and drinking:** Cloth face masks may be removed while eating and drinking.
- ▶ **Sleeping:** Children should never wear face mask while sleeping or resting.
- ▶ **Exercising outdoors** and able to consistently maintain six feet of distance from others
- ▶ **Swimming:** People should not wear cloth face mask while engaged in activities that may cause the cloth face covering to become wet, like when swimming at the beach or pool. A wet cloth face mask may make it difficult to breathe. For activities like swimming, it is particularly important to maintain physical distance from others when in the water.
- ▶ Are communicating with someone who is deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing and whose ability to see the mouth is essential to communication.
- ▶ Are receiving a medical or personal care service for which removal of the face mask is necessary.
- ▶ Are asked to temporarily remove a face mask for identification purposes.

Plastic face shields are not a replacement for cloth face masks but may be used in conjunction with cloth face masks in any of the above settings. In settings in which cloth face coverings are not required, plastic face shields may be worn alone, and may offer some degree of risk mitigation.