

QUICK REFERENCE FOR CHILD CARE: MASKS



When to wear masks

When and Where to Wear a Cloth Face Mask in Your Facility

Environment	Staff	Children Ages 2-3	Children Age 4	Children Age 5	Parents & Visitors
Classrooms, homes, cabins, or similar indoor settings	Required	Should Be Encouraged	Should Be Encouraged	Required	Required
Indoor hallways and common areas	Required	Should Be Encouraged	Required	Required	Required
School bus or transportation	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required
Outside with social distancing	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required

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.

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.