



**Mohammed Choudhury**  
State Superintendent of Schools

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**To:** Licensed Child Care Providers  
**From:** Steven R. Hicks  
Assistant State Superintendent  
Division of Early Childhood  
**Subject:** Clarification on Face Covering and Visitors  
**Date:** July 01, 2021

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On July 1, 2021, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) released NOTICE - FACE COVERING RECOMMENDATION (Effective July 1, 2021). The notice can be found at <https://bit.ly/3jtbkFk>.

Below is further clarification regarding face covering, physical distancing and visitors in childcare setting.

**Face Coverings:** Effective July 1, 2021:

- ❖ The Maryland Department of Health strongly recommends, but does not require, that all unvaccinated individuals continue to wear face coverings in child care indoor settings and this will include children from ages 2 and above as they are not able to be vaccinated and all other individuals who are not vaccinated.
- ❖ All persons may remove face coverings during childcare outdoor activities when physical distancing is maintained.
- ❖ Each child care facility, youth camp, local school system and authority may set their own policies regarding masks and face coverings.
- ❖ As recommended by the CDC, face coverings should not be worn by children under the age of 2 years and anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance.
- ❖ Caution should be used when individuals are wearing face coverings outdoors during hot days or when individuals are engaged in vigorous activity due to the increased risk of heat-related illness. See CDC guidance for additional safety considerations related to the use of face coverings.

**Visitors/Parents/Essential Service Personnel /Direct Service Providers:** Effective July 1, 2021:

- ❖ The Maryland Department of Health strongly recommends, but does not require, that all unvaccinated individuals continue to wear face coverings in child care indoor settings.
- ❖ Each child care facility, youth camp, local school system and authority may set their own policies regarding masks and face coverings.
- ❖ Maintain 6 feet physical distancing between cohorts:
  - Parents: At drop off and pick up at the child's class room entrances
  - Child care essential service personnel: Licensing, EXCELS, Resource Center, MSDE, Accreditation
  - Child Care educational/entertainment services personnel: Library, Extracurricular activities and vendor services as deemed necessary by the child care personnel.

***Temperature Check and Symptoms Screening: Current guidance to be followed***

***Cleaning, sanitation and disinfection: Current guidance to be followed***

All other guidance remains in place and child care program must follow the recommendations in the guidance. Including reporting requirements and staying home when sick.