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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Connecticut Office of
Early Childhood

Beth Bye
Commissioner

DATE: February 28, 2022

TO: Providers of services to young children

FROM: Beth Bye, Commissioner

RE: Coronavirus Memo #49
Revised OEC Mask Guidance

Pursuant to the [order issued by Public Health Commissioner Manisha Juthani on February 23, 2022](#), masks and face coverings are no longer required for adults in child care facilities on and after February 28, 2022.

In consultation with the Office of the Governor, Department of Education, and Department of Public Health, the order requiring children 3 years of age and older to wear masks while in child care centers, group child care homes, family child care homes and youth camps, which was issued in OEC Coronavirus Memo # 29, is hereby rescinded effective February 28, 2022.

While the statewide requirements for mask wearing by children and staff in child care and youth camp facilities will no longer be in place, the Office of Early Childhood, in consultation with the Department of Public Health, recommends the continued use of facial covering masks by children and staff in these settings. This guidance will continue to be updated and should be consulted frequently along with the CDC's [Guidance for Operating Early Care and Education/Child Care Programs](#) to review the latest recommendations.

Child care and youth camp programs are encouraged to review the latest [OEC Guidance for Child Care and Youth Camp Programs](#) in developing and implementing policies and procedures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including policies related to mask-wearing. Local orders and/or policies of federal and municipal governments, school districts, and property owners should also be consulted in determining such policies in child care and youth camp facilities.

Head Start is a federally funded program of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and must meet the highest and most stringent requirement set at the local, state, or national level. As such, Head Start and Early Head Start programs are required to continue to follow the federal requirements related to masking and COVID-19 vaccination per the Sept. 9, 2021, [Path Out of the Pandemic: President Biden's COVID-19 Action Plan](#). Information regarding these specific requirements can be found here: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/exploring-head-start-program-performance-standards/article/summary-vaccine-mask-requirements-mitigate-spread-covid-19-head-start-programs>