



# 2019 Novel Coronavirus [COVID-19]

cdh.idaho.gov/dac-coronavirus | cdc.gov/coronavirus

July 18, 2020

## **RE: Clarification on face covering/mask language in Ada County order**

Dear Child Care Providers,

On July 14th, our Board of Health added mandatory face covering language to the Ada County Public Health Order. The current version of the order states:

*Every person is required to wear a face covering that completely covers the person's nose and mouth when the person is in a public place and others are present and physical distancing of 6 feet cannot be maintained. A public place is defined as any place open to all members of the public without specific invitation, including but not necessarily limited to, retail, business establishments, government offices, medical, educational, arts and recreational institutions, public transportation, including taxi cabs and ridesharing vehicles, outdoor public areas, including, but not limited to public parks, trails, streets, sidewalks, lines for entry, exit, or service, when a distance of at least six feet cannot be maintained from any non-household member.*

**Child Care facilities do not fall under the definition of public places, and therefore, are excluded from the mandate.**

**However, Central District Health, advises that all child care facilities and programs that are currently open and operating do their best at implementing strategies to reduce and prevent the spread of the virus.**

- More information on possible safety options and measures can be found in our COVID-19 Guidance for Child Care Providers at <https://www.cdh.idaho.gov/pdfs/cd/Coronavirus/Resource%20Docs/food-childcare/CDH-Childcare-Guidance-Final-07-15-20.pdf>

CDH, as well as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), recommend that all staff members and older children wear face coverings within the facility. Providers should encourage parents to utilize face coverings whenever possible as well, and especially, when they come in contact with the staff, children, and other parents during drop off and pick-up times. Face coverings are an additional public health measure people should take to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in addition to (not instead of) social distancing, frequent hand cleaning and other everyday preventive actions. A cloth face covering is not intended to protect the wearer, but may prevent the spread of virus from the wearer to others. This would be especially important in the event that someone is infected but does not have symptoms. Please remember that cloth face coverings should NOT be put on babies or children under age two because of the danger of suffocation.

### **Additional resources to consider:**

- Guidance for Child Care programs that Remain Open <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html#open>
- Interim Guidance for Administrators of US K-12 Schools and Child Care Programs <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html>

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