

MASKS

Background

Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-153, which required masks in public spaces, exempted child care centers from its rules. On August 6, 2020, she issued Executive Order 2020-164, which rescinded the mask exemption for child care centers, and imposed a set of standards to be followed by both adults and children in such facilities. Upon reading the new regulations, we were pleased to see that the protocols we had established, though none were required at the time, actually met or exceeded the new requirements. However, in the interest of providing maximum protection to children, families, and staff, we have decided to follow the more stringent guidelines below. These guidelines are based on recommended, but not always required, practices from the CDC and the Wayne County Health Department.

DHMC, PCMS, and LMS Protocols

We value above all the health and safety of our students, their families, and our staff. We have established the following protocols, as applicable, for the programs at our three sites:

1. Parents must wear a mask when dropping off and picking up their children. Parents are not coming into the building at this time, but any adult entering must wear a mask.
2. Adult staff will wear a mask when greeting families in the car line, and indoors at all times except when eating. Adults are not required to wear masks (but may choose to do so) on the playgrounds when physical distancing can be maintained, but will carry a mask at all times and wear it when closer than six feet from a child or other adult.
3. Children in the toddler classes will not be required to wear a mask. Parents of older toddlers (ages 2 and above) may choose to have their child wear a face covering.
4. All children in the preschool/kindergarten classes, regardless of age, will be required to wear a mask when exiting the car, entering the building, in the hallway, in their classrooms, and when transitioning between spaces.
5. Children in the preschool/kindergarten classes will not be required to wear a mask when eating, or outdoors.
6. Children in Grades 1 through 8 will wear a mask at all times when exiting the car, when transitioning between spaces, and in all areas indoors except when eating. Masks are not required outdoors as long as physical distancing can be maintained. In close proximity (less than six feet) outdoors, masks are required.
7. Classrooms will have a designated "mask respite" area, indoors or outdoors, where the mask may be removed for a short period of time (recommendation from Wayne County Health Dept. is 15 minutes or less).

Family Support

Children should bring their own mask to school, where mask "lessons" occur frequently. Parents are requested to reinforce mask protocol in the following ways:

- Practice putting on and taking off a mask.
- Talk about the importance of masks, and how they help keep self and others safe.
- Emphasize with the children that masks are not to be shared with other students—they are the property of each individual child. Children should wear, carry, or safely store their own mask, and not touch those belonging to others.

...and a Qualifier

As with any document relating to COVID-19, this one is fluid. Though written in compliance with current knowledge and regulations, it is subject to revision or updating as a result of new information or government actions.