



## COVID-19 POLICY

### Home Child Care

#### Policies and Procedures

<b>Policy Title:</b>	<b>Revision Date:</b>
Covid-19 Mask and Eye Protection Policy	March 2021

**Authority: Manager, Home Child Care  
Public Health, Region of Waterloo  
Government of Ontario – Ministry of Education**

**Policy Statement:** This policy outlines the requirements for face mask and eye protection during child care in Home Child Care settings as required by the Ministry of Education. It also sets out the process for considering exceptions to this policy during Covid-19 for Caregivers, residents in the home, visitors and children in care during child care hours.

**Procedure:**

**Mask and Eye Protection Policy During Child Care:**

- **Caregivers and essential visitors** in the child care setting are **required** to wear a medical mask and eye protection (e.g. face shield, goggles).
- **Other adult residents** in the home are **required** to wear a face covering or non-medical mask while inside the premise
- Caregivers are **required** to wear a face mask and eye protection when cleaning and disinfecting blood or body fluid spills if there is a risk of splashing. In addition, disposable gloves may also be used to minimize contact with bodily fluids
- Caregivers are **required** to wear a face mask and eye protection when caring for a child displaying symptoms of illness
- all children in grade 1 and above are **required** to wear a non-medical or cloth mask while in child care
- all children younger than grade 1 are **encouraged** to wear a non-medical or cloth mask while in child care (except for those under two as mentioned below)
- it is **not recommended** that children under the age of 2 wear a mask while in child care
- this policy includes times when the Caregiver transports children in their vehicle

**Reasonable exceptions to this policy may be considered in consultation with the Home Child Care Program in the following circumstances:**

- during indoor and outdoor times when the Caregiver, residents in the home, visitors and children can effectively maintain physical distancing of at least 2 metres / 6 feet
- when Caregivers, residents in the home, children in care, or visitors have a medical condition or other circumstance preventing them from wearing a face covering including:
  - respiratory illness, chronic lung disease, asthma, difficulty breathing, cardiac illness or disease, anxiety, PTSD, panic attacks, children/adults with special needs/disabilities inhibiting comprehension or compliance to wearing a face covering
- requests for exceptions (by parents for children in care, Caregivers or on behalf of residents in the home, or visitors) need to be brought forward to the Home Child Care Consultant through a **written email** request advising an individual in the child care setting meets the above criteria. It is **not** required that an individual disclose specific personal health information or provide a doctor note as confirmation of a medical condition or other circumstance requiring an exception
- as a Caregiver contracting with a licensed agency it is required that if you or a resident in your home has an exception that you notify all parents using care however;
- if a child using care has an exception the Caregiver cannot disclose this personal information to other parents

For more information about the use of masks and face coverings click [here](#)

- Disposable masks should be discarded following daily use
- Face Shields are required to be cleaned/sanitized following daily use
- Disposable masks and face shields are being provided by the Ministry of Education - delivery to you will be coordinated by your Home Child Care Consultant

**Additional Resources:**

**COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool:**  
<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

Click [here](#) for testing sites located in Waterloo Region

[Covid-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#)

To access additional resources about licensed child care operations during Covid-19 follow the link below:

[https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/health-and-wellness/coronavirus-resources-for-schools-and-child-care-centres.aspx?\\_mid\\_=31117](https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/health-and-wellness/coronavirus-resources-for-schools-and-child-care-centres.aspx?_mid_=31117)