

## **Masking FAQ**

### **August 11, 2021**

- **Where can I find a copy of the Governor's newest Executive Order about masking?**

<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/MaskExecutiveOrderPreK12ChildCare.pdf>

- **When does this Executive Order go into effect?**

This Executive Order became effective on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 4pm.

- **How long is this Executive Order in effect?**

30 days. However, it could be extended based on guidance from public health officials.

- **Who must wear a mask in child care settings?**

All individuals – all teachers, staff, students and visitors including parents – must cover their nose and mouth with a face covering when indoors in all public and private preschool, Head Start, elementary, middle and high schools (preschool through grade 12) in Kentucky, including but not limited to inside of vehicles used for transportation such as school buses, regardless of vaccination status

All staff, visitors and children ages 2 and older who are able to wear a face covering must cover their nose and mouth with a face covering when indoors in all child care settings in Kentucky, regardless of vaccination status.

- **Does apply to Head Starts?**

This applies to all settings – "...public and private preschool, Head Start, elementary, middle, and high schools (preschool through grade 12) in Kentucky....", as well as in all child care settings.

- **What age does mask wearing begin?**

24 months and 1 day or older.

- **Does this order apply to center-based care as well as in-home care?**

Yes. All licensed, certified and registered providers are expected to follow this guidance including licensed Head Start.

- **If we are practicing social distancing in our program, would the children and staff still have to wear masks?**

Yes. Masks are required while indoors.

- **Do parents have to wear a mask during pick-up and drop-off?**

Yes.

- **Do staff members have to wear a mask if they are fully vaccinated?**

Yes.

- **What if a parent refuses to wear a mask? Do we have to allow them access to the building?**

Parents cannot be denied access to their children. However, if a parent refuses to wear a mask you may need to make alternate arrangements such as taking the child to them versus allowing them into the program.

If a parent has a health condition that prevents them from wearing a mask, you cannot deny them access.

- **What if a parent refuses to allow their child to wear a mask?**

Center should refuse to accept any child age 24 months or older without a mask.

- **Do we need to have parents sign a permission form allowing their child to wear a mask?**

No. Masks are required to be worn by any child over the age of 24 months.

Any previous permission forms issued by the Cabinet were incorporated with the previous emergency regulations and are no longer allowable.

- **Will we need parents to sign a waiver releasing liability?**

This is a small business decision. It is not a requirement of this Executive Order.

- **How are we supposed to keep a mask on a 2-year old?**

Providers should assist all children age 24 months and older who are able to wear a face covering to do so. You can reach out to your Health and Safety Coach for technical assistance. <https://www.childcareawareky.org/about-child-care-aware/coaches/>

- **Can the required exemption documentation be a statement from a parent stating they are not comfortable with their child wearing a mask?**

No. Required documentation must come from a health care provider supporting a pre-existing condition.

- **Will an emergency regulation be filed?**

We are not reverting back to any previous emergency regulations. Child care programs should continue to follow normal health and safety regulations along with the new masking requirement. If a new regulation is filed, you will be notified.

- **This executive order contradicts the previous emergency regulations -922 KAR 2:415E. What has changed?**

922 KAR 2:415E was withdrawn. The Cabinet is following the recommendations of the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics. The Delta variant is affecting children much more than previous strains.

- **Do programs have to supply masks for all children?**

Parents are responsible for providing masks for their children. However, programs should have masks on hand.

- **Where am I supposed to find masks on such a short notice? What if I cannot get masks delivered before next week, or even later? Am I going to be cited?**

Please make every effort to ensure the children in your care are following this mandate. Please have documentation showing you have asked parents to provide masks for their children (group emails, posting signs, etc.). If you have proof that you have ordered masks, you can provide that also.

- **What if I refuse as a director to enforce this executive order?**

You shall be cited for non-compliance.

- **Can shields be worn instead of masks?**

Masks are required. Use masks with clear screens if available. Shields may be used if a medical exemption requires it.

- **Can I dismiss a child who cannot wear a mask all day?**

Providers should assist all children age 24 months and older who are able to wear a face covering to do so. Reach out to your Health and Safety Coach for technical assistance. <https://www.childcareawareky.org/about-child-care-aware/coaches/>

- **What about multi-aged infant/toddler classrooms? If a 2 year old is in a multi-aged classroom (early Head Start) do they still have to wear a mask?**

Yes.

- **Do we need to put up temporary walls again?**

No. This order only requires facial masking.

- **Is there a religious exemption for masking?**

No.