

Face Coverings and PPE

Clinical research continues to demonstrate that face covering can effectively reduce the spread of COVID-19 and is an essential part of protecting those around us.

On June 24th, 2020 Governor Cooper announced that face coverings will be required for anyone over the age of 11 years old in most public settings. NCDHHS Interim Guidance for Child Care centers now reflects this guidance, stating, *"Have all workers, all other adults, and children eleven years or older on site wear a face covering when they are or may be within six (6) feet of another person, unless the person (or family member, for a child) states that an exception applies."*

Face Coverings/Masks for Adults	
Required	Not Required
<p>This includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● During Health Screenings ● Drop-off/Pick-up ● In hallways & shared spaces ● When caring for sick children as they await pick-up ● While outside and a 6ft distance can not be maintained ● Shared office spaces ● While caring for a sick child ● In the classroom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● While alone in your office/classroom ● Outside when a 6ft or greater distance can be maintained ● While actively eating or drinking <p>Face coverings should not be placed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children under the age of 2; ● Anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
<p><i>If you believe one of the exceptions to this mandate applies to you, please contact HR.</i></p>	

Face Coverings/Masks for Children
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Face coverings/masks will NOT be put on babies and children under the age of two because of the danger of suffocation. ● For children over the age of two, face coverings will NOT be used if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The only face covering available is a possible choking or strangulation hazard. ○ Wearing the face covering causes the child to touch their face more frequently than not wearing it. ● For children over the age of two, face coverings may be used if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A parent/guardian requests that they do and the child can reliably wear a face-covering ○ The child develops symptoms of COVID-19 during the day and is waiting to be picked up and can tolerate a face covering.

Wearing Cloth Face Covering Procedures

How do I put on a cloth face covering?

1. Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water before putting on a cloth face covering.
2. Check cloth face coverings for tears, worn stitching, or missing ties or ear loops. Throw away any that are defective.
3. Secure the loops around the ears or tie the upper and then lower ties behind your head with a bow. Make sure it covers your nose and mouth to the bottom edge of your chin.
4. Wash hands again for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.








How do I remove the cloth face covering?

1. Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water before removing a face covering.
2. Face coverings should be removed without touching the front or inside of the face covering, which could be contaminated. Untie or remove the cloth face covering by touching only the ear loops or the straps (untie bottom ties first). Be careful not to touch eyes, nose, or mouth when removing the cloth face covering.
3. Place the used cloth face covering in a laundry receptacle that can be cleaned and disinfected. Do not touch anything else before washing hands.
4. Wash hands again for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.

When should cloth face coverings be cleaned and how?

Cloth face coverings should be cleaned after each use. They must be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape. CDC recommends the following.

- Launder items according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely.
- Do not shake dirty laundry.
- Remove gloves after handling dirty laundry, and wash hands right away.
- Clean and disinfect laundry receptacles daily by:
 - Cleaning with soap and water, then disinfecting

Cloth Face Coverings				
PUTTING ON	 1. Wash hands For at least 20 seconds with soap and water.	 INSPECT 2. Check the cloth face covering Inspect for tears, worn stitching, missing ties or ear loops. Throw away masks that are defective.	 3. Secure to your face Secure the loops around the ears or tie the upper and then lower ties behind your head with a bow. Make sure it covers your nose and mouth to the bottom edge of your chin.	 4. Wash hands For at least 20 seconds with soap and water.
	TAKING OFF	 1. Wash hands For at least 20 seconds with soap and water.	 2. Remove Untie or remove the cloth face covering by touching only the ear loops or the straps (untie bottom ties first). Be careful not to touch the inside or outside which could be contaminated.	 3. Place in a laundry receptacle Place the used cloth face covering in a laundry receptacle that can be cleaned and disinfected. Do not touch anything else before washing hands.
<p>Refer to the current Interim Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Guidance for Child Care Settings from NCDHHS for when to use cloth face coverings.</p> <p>Cloth face coverings should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ not be used to replace social distancing practices ✓ not be worn by children under 2 ✓ not be worn by anyone that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unable to remove it without assistance, • having trouble breathing, • who is unconscious, or incapacitated ✓ fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face ✓ allow for unrestricted breathing ✓ not be adjusted when wearing - avoid touching face with hands ✓ be removed completely when eating/drinking ✓ be laundered each time it is removed 				

Developed 4/16/2020 by The North Carolina Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center • healthchildcare.unc.edu • 800.387.2279
Based on information from NC DHHS Interim Guidance for Child Care Settings (5/8/2020) and Centers for Disease Control

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PoOcz0GdHYFu06oZAtRyHfLd9r-XHpz5/view?usp=sharing>

From the North Carolina Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center, Cloth Face Covering Guidance (<https://healthychildcare.unc.edu/files/2020/04/Cloth-Face-Mask-Use-in-Child-Care-05.11.2020.pdf>)