

OCDEL COVID-19 FAQ

- Q.1. Will OCDEL cite child care facilities for children not wearing face covering?
A. No
- Q.2. Will OCDEL cite for staff not wearing face covering?
A. Yes, effective July 17, 2020. A provider should share which staff are exempt from wearing a face covering for a medical reason. OCDEL will document.
- Q.3. What is the penalty for not having staff wear a face covering?
A. A citation will be issued under Regulations [3270.21](#), [3280.20](#) and [3290.18](#) under General Health and Safety, unless staff state a medical reason for not wearing a face covering. OCDEL's Certification staff may also provide technical assistance by advising providers to utilize a plastic face shield for staff who cannot wear a face covering/mask due to a medical condition.
- Q.4. What is an acceptable face covering?
A. [The Order Requiring Universal Face Coverings](#) requires individuals to wear a face covering. Face covering means a covering of the nose and mouth that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears, or is wrapped around the lower face. A face covering can be made of a variety of synthetic or natural fabrics, including cotton, silk, or linen, and, for the purposes of the order, can include a plastic face shield that covers the nose and mouth. Face coverings may be factory-made, sewn by hand, or improvised from household items, including but not limited to, scarves, bandanas, t-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels. While procedural and surgical masks intended for health care providers and first responders, such as N95 respirators, would meet these requirements, these specialized masks should be reserved for appropriate occupational and health care settings.
- Q.5. Will OCDEL Certification staff be evaluating face coverings for their safety, and if yes, will OCDEL provide guidance on mask safety (any materials that masks should not be made from, masks with ties vs. ear holes, homemade masks that become worn from frequent washing)?
A. OCDEL Certification staff will be evaluating whether child care staff are wearing a face covering that covers the mouth and nose. Please see Q.4. as to what an acceptable face covering is considered.
- Q.6. Are child care staff mandated to wear a mask if they can maintain appropriate social distancing standards, examples would include nap time, meal periods, staff taking a break in staff lunch, staff and/or director in a private office?
A. Individuals engaged in work, whether at the workplace or performing work off-site, when interacting in-person with any member of the public, working in any space visited by members of the public, working in any space where food is prepared or packaged for sale or distribution to others, working in or walking through common areas, or in any room or enclosed area where other people, except for members of the person's own household, are present must wear a face covering when unable to physically distance. However, employees isolated in their personal office space, which is not shared with any other individual and at least six feet apart from another person do not need to wear a face covering. Additionally, a face covering is not required while eating or drinking. While eating or drinking, social

distancing techniques and other public health best practices such as hand hygiene should be applied.

- Q.7. Is there a writeable COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan Template?
A. Yes, the link is: <https://files.constantcontact.com/3e3d36fe201/d998057e-8485-43b6-942a-3fd19afd9e1b.docx>
- Q.8. Why is OCDEL issuing so many policy updates and changes?
A. As OCDEL is updated and more information is understood about COVID-19, policies are continuously reviewed to insure they are responsive to new data. It is OCDEL's intent to share with staff, providers and other stakeholders the relevant information as quickly as possible. While unfortunate, frequent updates and policy modifications are necessary. Communicating with child care staff and families about the need for these frequent changes will help maintain everyone's understanding and flexibility in adapting to new information and directives.
- Q.9. What should child care staff do if the Department of Health (DOH) does not respond when staff call related to a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19?
A. In the announcement, [*Interim Guidance for Certified Child Care Facilities Operating During the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic C-20-06 Revised*](#), the requirement is to report to DOH. Child care providers should review this announcement and follow the steps included in the event they have a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.

Please note the announcement was completed in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Health: <https://files.constantcontact.com/3e3d36fe201/f1dc7cca-6c70-4e4e-b60a-3bbabc353fa2.pdf>

- Q.10. How should businesses implement the Department of Health (DOH) travel related quarantine recommendations? Can employers require employees returning from listed states to stay out of work for 14 days?
A. The commonwealth does not dictate how businesses should implement the quarantine recommendation. However, DOH recommends implementing businesses review the eligibility criteria in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and provide flexible leave and work from home policies to accommodate the recommendation.

Information on COVID-19 travel related recommendations can be found at:
<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/Travel-FAQ.aspx>