

**CHILDCARE MANUAL**

SECTION:	<b>6 - HEALTH CARE</b>	DATE OF APPROVAL:	<b>August 25, 2020</b>
CODE:	<b>HC- 019</b>		
TITLE:	<b>Staff Masking During COVID-19</b>		

**Policy**

To ensure the health and well-being of children and staff within childcare centre's, effective September 1, 2020, all staff working in the childcare premises that cannot maintain physical distancing of 2 meters must wear a medical mask and eye protection. Children grade 4 and above will also be required to wear a face mask while on childcare premises. Children below grade 4 are encouraged to wear a face mask.

**Procedures**

- Staff will have passed the daily screening prior to entering the childcare centre. Staff should self-monitor throughout the day for illness, including observing for the following symptoms;
  - Fever (temperature of 38° or higher)
  - New or worsening cough or shortness of breath
  - Runny nose, sore throat or diarrhea
- In the event that a staff person becomes ill while at the childcare, the staff should isolate themselves as quickly as possible until they are able to leave the centre. Any staff who presents any one of the symptoms of COVID-19 including fever, new or worsening cough or shortness of breath must not return the centre.
- PPE will be provided to staff, including medical face masks and eye protection.
- Staff will receive training for donning and doffing PPE, including face masks and eye protection. (Face Shield or Goggles)
- The use of masks is not required outdoors for staff or children providing that the 2m of physical distancing can be maintained.
- Reasonable exceptions to the mask requirement will be considered on a case by case basis. Exemptions may include; ability to tolerate the mask or medical conditions. Staff medical exemptions must be accompanied by a doctor's note identifying the medical reason for the exemption.
- Staff exemptions may not be applicable for diaper changing or cleaning bodily fluids, depending on the exemption.
- Supervisors working independently in their office are not required to wear a face mask and eye protection as the 2m physical distance is maintained. However, when the supervisor leaves the office and enters common areas they are required to wear medical face masks and eye protection.