

FAMILY CHILD CARE HEALTH & SAFETY BULLETIN

...a newsletter for family child care providers and FCC Network Leaders
Volume 9: September 18, 2020

Office of Early Childhood (OEC): Supporting Programs in Transitioning to Mask-Wearing for Young Children

You are invited to join the OEC for a webinar on Friday, September 18, 2020, from 9 – 10:15 am. Commissioner Beth Bye will provide an update about a new OEC requirement that children age 3 and older must wear masks in child care programs and youth camps. Family child care and center-based providers, who have implemented mask-wearing for young children for several months, will share their experience and best practices. There will be time for questions and answers. The webinar will be recorded and posted on the OEC website at: <https://www.ctoec.org/covid-19/running-your-business-during-covid-19/>

Date: Friday, September 18, 2020 at 9 a.m. – 10:15 am

Register Here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4931936781855071500>

Transitioning to MASK-WEARING FOR YOUNG CHILDREN



The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) requirements for group size and mask wearing (found in [Memo #29](#)) are part of a system of supports to protect the health and safety of children and staff. New recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics and The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guided these requirements. Mask-wearing and limited group size are among strategies in programs to help keep children and staff safe, including hand washing, social distancing, and increased cleaning and disinfection.

Here's what you need to know:

- ◆ Child care programs are allowed groups of up to 16 children per space. (Effective August 20th)
- ◆ Children age three and older are required to wear a mask while in child care programs. (Effective September 21st)
 - ◇ Children who have just turned three and children newly enrolled will have two months time to get used to mask-wearing.
 - ◇ Children will have mask breaks throughout the day for eating, drinking, resting, sleeping, and outdoor play.
 - ◇ If children are indoors without masks on, providers will maximize the distance between children to at least 6 feet wherever possible.
 - ◇ Some children may be unable to wear a mask due to a medical condition, disability, special health care or developmental need. If you think this may be the case for your child, talk with your program director and your child's pediatrician.
 - ◇ Child care programs have until October 19, 2020, to help children get comfortable wearing masks. Ask your child care program director when mask-wearing will start.

WHY MASKS?



Masks that cover the nose and mouth have been shown to be one of the best ways to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus, along with hand washing, social distancing, and other safety steps.



If someone has COVID-19, even if they don't feel sick, tiny droplets that contain the COVID-19 virus can come out of their nose and mouth when they breathe, talk, or sneeze. A mask stops those droplets from spreading in the air.



Wearing a mask helps keep everyone safe. It's an important part of being a good community member, a skill we want children to learn.

Some questions you might have:

- ◆ **What if my child takes their mask off when they are supposed to be wearing it?** Mask-wearing is one of many hygiene and social skills children learn, like hand washing and treating others with kindness. Child care providers are helping kids build mask-wearing skills in a fun and supportive way.
- ◆ **What is the best kind of mask for my child?** There are many different types of masks available – surgical masks, cloth masks, over the ears, around the head and more. The most important features of a face covering for children in a child care program are: (1) it completely covers the nose and mouth of the wearer, (2) it is comfortable enough to wear for long periods of time, and (3) it fits snugly against the cheeks.

For more information visit www.ctoec.org/covid-19/child-care-during-covid-19

9.14.2020



Connecticut Office
of Early Childhood

Office of Child Advocate Website (<https://portal.ct.gov/oaca>)

The Flyer below is page 1 of 2 page [Scald Burn Flyer](#). The full Flyer is located at <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DCF/Agency/COVID-Emails/ScaldBurnFlyer-Final.pdf> and includes information about protecting children from burns and other resources such as:

- Child Development Infoline 2-1-1: (CDI) supports children's healthy development starting from pregnancy with information, support, and referrals to CT programs and services for children and their families. Call 1-800- 505-7000 or visit their website at <https://cdi.211ct.org/>; and
- Talk Line for Parent Support: Call 833-258-5011 to speak to a trained professional or visit www.talkitoutct.com.

IT CAN HAPPEN IN A FLASH WITH A SPLASH

LIQUID AND STEAM BURN LIKE FIRE



KEEPING YOUR YOUNG CHILDREN SAFE IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

These are difficult times for everyone, especially for parents juggling the new demands related to social distancing, isolation, and a reduced support network. Keeping your young child safe from the burns and other hazards can be a full-time job!

- Your well-being is as critical as your child's.
- You may worry about taking a break and keeping your child safe at the same time
- There are resources to help both you and your child during this stressful time

