



OFFICES IN BOZEMAN AND HELENA  
1143 Stoneridge Dr, Bozeman, MT 59718  
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(406) 587-7786 or (800) 962-0418

PROMOTING QUALITY CHILD CARE

CCCMONTANA.ORG

July 31, 2020

**GALLATIN COUNTY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS: Please review**

The Gallatin County Board of Health Meeting held on Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup> adopted the new [Emergency Local Health Rule EHR-2020-005](#). Staff members and children over the age of 5 are required to wear face coverings in daycares & youth camps while in indoor settings and outdoor settings if social distancing is not possible. Exceptions are if staff or children have a medical condition precluding the safe-wearing of a face covering and other exceptions are in section 7.

“6. Except as specifically exempted at Section 7 below, the following guidelines apply for childcare facilities, daycares, camps, and schools serving grades 5 and below for the use of Face Coverings on children:

- a. Children under the age of 3 should not wear Face Coverings;
- b. Unless Face Coverings are required by State directive or guidance, Face Coverings for children over 3 who are not napping are recommended but not required;
- c. No child should wear a face covering while napping;
- d. Children in grade 5 or younger should be monitored if they are wearing a Face Covering. If the Face Covering is creating discomfort or resulting in the child touching their face frequently, reconsider whether a mask is appropriate for that child;
- e. Unless such policies are required by state directive or guidance, School Districts should consider Face Covering policies for grades K through 5 to encourage usage among children but may implement policies that do not require Face Coverings for some or all students in those grades;
- f. Parents dropping off and picking up children must wear Face Coverings while they are at the school, daycare, camp, or facility; and
- g. Face Coverings are required for staff caring for children and interacting with parents

7. A Face Covering is not required under the following circumstances:

- a. When a person is in an office or in an indoor work area in which others outside of that person’s household or residence are not within 6 feet of the person, as long as the public does not regularly visit the office or indoor work area. Such individuals should put on a Face Covering when coworkers are working within six feet, when being visited by a client or customer, and anywhere members of the public or other coworkers are regularly present;
- b. Any child under the age of three should not wear a Face Covering;

- c. When a person is seated at a table of a restaurant or other food service establishment, and the person is separated by at least six (6) feet from other patrons at other tables. The person should wear a mask while entering, exiting, or otherwise moving about the establishment;
- d. When a person is (1) inside or obtaining services at a business, government function, or healthcare operation, any of which are engaged primarily in providing congregate care, residential health care, or congregate shelter, and (2) the individual is engaged in activities not conducive to wearing a Face Covering, such as eating or sleeping, or the individual is in an area of the facility that is not designed for community gathering, such as a sleeping area;
- e. If a person has a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a Face Covering. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a Face Covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a Face Covering without assistance;
- f. If a person is outside in an area and situation where Social Distancing can be maintained, or when engaged in an activity that makes wearing a Face Covering physically impractical or unsafe, such as during strenuous physical exercise or when swimming;
- g. When a person is obtaining services from a personal care establishment and the services are not possible without removal of a Face Covering, such as receiving a facial massage, facial grooming, facial piercing, etc.;
- h. When a person is seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired;
- i. When a person is giving a speech or engaging in an artistic, cultural, musical, or theatrical performance for an audience, provided the audience is separated by at least six feet of distance;  
or
- j. While a person temporarily removes their Face Covering for identification purposes.”

As noted in the Rule, there are some exceptions for congregate care or congregate sheltering such as a residential group home. See section 7d in the Emergency Health Rule. An in-home day care is considered a daycare and meets the definition of a Business and the face covering rule applies unless there is an exception as noted in the Rule above.

***CCC's Question to the Health Department:***

***We are helping providers write policies around COVID, how long must someone quarantine with a direct exposure or indirect exposure to COVID. How long should a childcare close if a positive test comes back. (I am fairly certain that your answer is going to be “it depends”, but language around that would be helpful.)***

If an individual has been identified as 'close-contact' (currently defined by CDC as being within 6 feet of someone for at least 15 minutes, consecutive minutes) then that person will be contacted by a public health nurse and asked to quarantine for 14 days starting from the date of exposure. Childcare settings do not necessarily have to close just because there is one positive case in a childcare setting. Cohorting, keeping cohorts separated, teachers staying with



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their same small group of children, how well groups of kids maintain social distancing, will all help minimize disease spread. Business closures are typically a conversation between public health nurse and business owners on a situational basis depending on the exposure and how many close contacts were identified through case investigation. If there are adequate staff who have not been exposed, and few close contacts, and the business can function safely then they can typically stay open. Again, this is always different and discussed on a case by case basis.

***If you have specific questions, please call the Gallatin City County Health Department at (406) 582-3100.***



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