



# Public Health

Administration

August 18, 2020

Dear School and Early Childhood Education Partners:

As we continue to learn about COVID-19, how it impacts children, and how the virus is transmitted among children, Boulder County Public Health (BCPH) is now strongly recommending that all children two years of age and older wear cloth face coverings. This includes while they are at school, in childcare settings, and in any settings outside the home when they are unable to physically distance themselves from others (i.e. minimum of six feet). The American Academy of Pediatrics recently released [guidance](#) urging universal cloth face coverings for children ages two years and older. The only exceptions are children under the age of two years, as well as those who have trouble breathing, are unconscious, are incapacitated, or are otherwise unable to remove their face coverings without assistance. It is important that children remove their face coverings during naptime. They may also remove them when they are outside and while they are eating and drinking.

Because masks help to keep the person wearing the mask from spreading COVID-19 to others, and in keeping in line with [Governor Polis's Civil Rights Guidance](#), BCPH strongly recommends that K-12 schools provide virtual learning instead of in-person learning for any students who can't medically tolerate a face covering. To protect their own health and to prevent the spread of COVID-19, we also recommend that students who can't medically tolerate a face covering should not participate in any in-person athletics, in-person extracurricular activities, or in-person school-age childcare.

We know that COVID-19 is going to be a part of all of our lives for some time. We also know that face coverings, along with physical distancing and good hand hygiene, are effective ways to help prevent the spread of this disease. The diligent implementation of these tools is especially important for the health and safety of our school students, families, and staff as we plan for the return to school.

In order to help children make the wearing of face coverings a regular habit, you can encourage families to practice wearing masks at home. Edutopia has put together some great suggestions on [how to help students get used to masks](#). Feel free to share these tips with your school families and to integrate them into your classrooms.

If you have any questions or need additional resources, please contact our Early Childhood Education Team at [HealthECECOVID@bouldercounty.org](mailto:HealthECECOVID@bouldercounty.org) or our COVID-19 Education Team at [education@bouldercounty.org](mailto:education@bouldercounty.org).

We are very grateful for your support and would like to thank you for continuing to keep the health and safety of our community in mind as you make plans for the upcoming school year.

Jeffrey J. Zayach  
Executive Director

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Medical Officer

