



To: Families/Guardians/Advocates

Date: September 16, 2022

Subject: Mask Update

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Effective immediately, OPWDD is no longer requiring that masks be universally worn in OPWDD certified or operated programs. This includes both residential and day program sites.

Please note, our health and safety measures remain in place, such as encouraging COVID testing to those with symptoms or exposure, cleaning and disinfecting protocols, excluding sick individuals from program, proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

There are still circumstances when masking should be used in programs during periods of quarantine, exposure and isolation. If this were to occur, you will receive notification from your program management team.

Please note, masks will remain optional throughout our organization, due to personal choice or medical need. Do not be alarmed if you still observe staff wearing masks, this is no cause for alarm.

The lifting of the mask mandate indicates the progress we have made throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this progress, our focus will continue to be on the prevention of illness throughout our organization and we will continue to enforce and maintain our health and safety measures.

Thank you,

Gina C. Baker, RN, MSN-NMEL

Chief Health Administrator