



Bi-County Collaborative
Making It Possible

Face Masks/Face Coverings, and PPE Protocols

A. Face Masks and Coverings: BICO Programs must encourage the wearing of masks or cloth face coverings during the program day. Whenever 6 feet of physical distancing is not possible, masks must be worn.

(1) To slow the spread of COVID-19, program staff are required to wear a cloth face covering while interacting with students, colleagues, and families. Program staff are required to wear a cloth face covering whenever 6 feet of physical distancing is not possible.

(2) Programs should encourage the wearing of masks or cloth face coverings for students who can safely and appropriately wear, remove, and handle masks. Additional guidance on use of face coverings and masks by children is as follows:

(a) If and/or when students can be safely kept **at least** 6 feet away from others, they do not need to be encouraged to wear a mask.

(b) Masks must not be worn while students are eating/drinking. Strict and consistent physical distancing must be practiced at all times during these activities. Masks do not need to be worn while engaging in active outdoor play, if students are able to keep at least 6 feet of physical distance from others.

(d) Students must be supervised when wearing a mask. If wearing the face covering causes the student to touch their face more frequently, staff must reconsider whether the mask is appropriate for the student.

(3) Families should provide students with a sufficient supply of clean masks each day to allow replacing of the covering as needed. These families must have a plan for routine cleaning of masks and face coverings, clearly mark masks with the student's name and clearly distinguish which side of the covering should be worn facing outwards so they are worn properly each day. If families are unable to provide masks, programs will provide masks for students as necessary. Masks and face coverings must be routinely washed

(at least daily and any time the mask is used or becomes soiled) depending on the frequency of use. When possible, masks must be washed in a washing machine in hot water and dried fully before using again. If a washing machine is unavailable, masks must be washed with soap and hot water and allowed to dry fully before using again.

(4) If using a disposable mask, follow CDC guidance on proper daily removal. Grasp bottom ties or elastics of the mask, then the ones at the top, and remove without touching the front. Discard in a waste container and wash hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer immediately.

(5) Programs must enforce the wearing of face masks by parents or guardians when on the premises and at all times. Programs must regularly remind families and staff that all individuals are encouraged to adhere to the CDC's recommendations for wearing a mask or cloth face covering whenever going out in public and/or around other people.

(6) Programs must teach and reinforce use of cloth face coverings among all program staff. Face coverings are most essential at times when social distancing is not possible. Staff must be frequently reminded not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently.

B. Exceptions to Use of Face Masks/Coverings: Exceptions for wearing face masks include situations that may inhibit an individual from wearing a face mask safely. These may include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Students who cannot safely and appropriately wear, remove, and handle masks;
- (3) Students who have difficulty breathing with the face covering or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance;
- (4) Students with severe cognitive or respiratory impairments;
- (6) Individuals who cannot breathe safely with a face covering;
- (7) Individuals who, due to a behavioral health diagnosis or an intellectual impairment, are unable to wear a face covering safely; and
- (8) Individuals who need to communicate with people who rely upon lip-reading.

C. When to Use Gloves: BICO Program staff must wear gloves when appropriate and at all times during the following activities. Handwashing or use of an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after these procedures is always required, whether or not gloves are used.

- (1) Toileting and/or changing;

- (2) Food preparation;
- (3) Screening activities requiring contact.

D. Additional Guidance on Using Gloves: To reduce cross-contamination, disposable gloves should always be discarded after the following instances. After removing gloves for any reason, hand hygiene should be performed with alcohol-based hand sanitizer or soap and water.

- (1) Visible soiling or contamination with blood, respiratory or nasal secretions, or other body fluids occurs.
- (2) Any signs of damage (e.g., holes, rips, tearing) or degradation are observed.
- (3) Maximum of four hours of continuous use.
- (4) Removing gloves for any reason. Previously removed gloves should not be re-donned as the risk of tearing and contamination increases. Therefore, disposable glove "re-use" should not be performed.
- (5) In addition, gloves should be removed following activities where glove usage is required including toileting/changing, food preparation, and activities requiring contact.

PPE GUIDELINES FOR ALL STAFF



MASKS

Staff must wear face coverings or masks, with exceptions for staff for whom it is unsafe due to medical conditions or other considerations. If face coverings or masks are not possible, strict social distancing of 6 feet is required. Staff may choose to wear cloth, washable, or disposable masks. Please note that a bandana or scarf is not adequate. Cloth masks should be washed daily.



FACE SHIELD

Wear **with** a mask for risk of direct cough, sneeze, spit, and bodily fluids.



and

PROTECTIVE GOGGLES

Protects entry into eyes, nose and mouth. Should be cleaned with alcohol or soap and water.

Wear **with** a mask for risk of direct cough, sneeze, spit, bodily fluids.

Protects entry into eyes, nose and mouth. Should be cleaned with alcohol or soap and water.



REMOVABLE/WASHABLE LAYER OF CLOTHING

Wear for direct “hands on” contact with students such as feeding, behavioral management, personal hygiene, toileting/changing. Must be brought to school each day and washed when soiled. Disposable gowns are available for staff who may have close contact with students displaying symptoms of COVID19 (ex. nurses).



GLOVES

Wear when providing personal hygiene, feeding, risk of contact with body fluids, and for “hands on” behavior management, assisting and therapies. Wearing gloves is not a substitute for hand washing. Washing hands between contact with students will prevent cross contamination. Hands must be washed before donning gloves and after removal.