



Wearing a Mask—Head Start Children

Purpose: To decrease the likelihood of spreading viruses among children and staff.

NOTE: Mask wearing required for Head Start preschool children and all types of staff. Early Head Start infants and toddlers will not be wearing masks.

- 1 ACHR provides each family w/ 3 re-usable cloth masks with break-away lanyards.
 - a. Each mask has a white label to write child's name.
 - b. Family is responsible for washing masks. This can be done in the regular laundry with detergent and warm water. Or wash by hand. Suggestion: Using a large Ziploc bag, fill ½ way with hot water then a teaspoon of laundry or dish detergent, then mask. Seal it, shake it, massage it from the outside of the bag gently then set it in a bowl for 10 minutes. Rinse well and dry completely before re-wearing.
 - c. To help children who are not used to masks, parents can begin having their child wear a mask when going somewhere such as the grocery store or even at home just for practice. The mask must cover the nose and mouth.

2. *Children wear mask:
 - a. At door of bus and on bus.
 - b. While waiting to enter building and while in the hallways and classroom, except while eating or blowing nose.
 - c. Children put masks in individual cubby during breakfast and lunch, wash hands, and put mask back on.
 - d. With teacher assistance, children may hang mask on designated hanging area on playground fence with clothespin during outside time. Children encouraged to social distance, using playground space to get fresh air.
 - e. Mask goes home with child (both bus and walk-ins).

*Children with documented moderate to severe asthma or other diagnosis may be exempt from mask wearing: Parent must provide note from doctor stating he/she is exempt from mask wearing in the program.

