



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



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PIN 22-10-CCP
(Supersedes PIN 21-29-CCP)

TO: ALL CHILD CARE FACILITY LICENSEES AND PROVIDERS

FROM: ***Original signed by Kevin Gaines***
KEVIN GAINES
Deputy Director
Community Care Licensing Division

SUBJECT: **UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS REGARDING
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)**

Provider Information Notice (PIN) Summary

PIN 22-10-CCP provides updated information about current public health recommendations regarding the use of face masks in licensed child care facilities and reminds providers about COVID-19 infection control guidance. In addition, this PIN announces updated guidance from the California Department of Public Health for all child care providers and programs. **PIN 22-10-CCP supersedes PIN 21-29-CCP in its entirety.**

This PIN provides an update to child care facility licensees and providers about changes in public health orders concerning the use of face coverings/masks. The California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) [Guidance for the Use of Face Masks](#) was updated on February 28, 2022. Beginning March 12, 2022, the universal masking in child care settings will terminate. CDPH and California Department of Social Services (CDSS) strongly recommends that individuals in these settings continue to mask in indoor settings when the universal masking requirement lifts.

CDPH has emphasized that California has used science to guide health protection strategies throughout the pandemic. According to the [SMARTER](#) plan for California, which is the next phase of California's COVID-19 response, the data has clearly demonstrated that properly worn masks with good filtration are an effective mitigation tool that not only protects the wearer, but minimizes the transmission of COVID-19. Vaccination continues to remain the ultimate exit strategy out of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, California's SMARTER plan also shows how masks, especially those that offer the best fit and filtration

(e.g., N95s, KN95s, KF94s), remain a critical component of California's multi-layered approach for protection against COVID-19 infection.

IMPORTANT! Children younger than two (2) years of age and infants must never wear a face mask due to the risk of suffocation and death.

For additional information on the most effective face coverings, child care licensees and providers should refer to CDPH's [Get the Most out of Masking](#) and [Face Covering Q&A](#). To assist child care providers and parents with recommended quarantine and isolation guidance, Child Care Decision Trees have also been added to the Safe Schools Hubs at the links below:

- [Sick Child or Positive COVID Test](#)
- [Exposed Child](#)

Child care providers should update their COVID-19 mitigation plans and inform parents of any changed policies for face masks. Providers must allow any individual, two years of age or older, to use a face mask if they choose to do so. Children should not wear masks while sleeping, eating, or during water activities. Providers must ensure the use of face masks do not cause children to overheat in hot weather.

Updated Guidance for Child Care Providers and Programs

CDPH will release updated Guidance for Child Care Providers and Programs shortly, to assist child care providers in maintaining a safe and low-risk environment as we move into the next phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidance informs child care providers about infection control practices that prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 infection in child care facilities.

Monitoring and Technical Assistance

[PIN 21-08-CCLD](#) dated May 28, 2021, clarified Community Care Licensing Division's (CCLD) oversight role during the COVID-19 pandemic. The PIN notified child care facility licensees and providers that CCLD would assess compliance with licensing statutes, regulations, and infection control practices for communicable diseases like COVID-19.

CCLD remains committed to working with licensees and providers who attempt in good faith to comply with and implement infection control practices. CCLD will be providing technical assistance whenever possible, but is required to address any violation of licensing requirements. A licensee may be subject to disciplinary action by CDSS for failing to follow state and local COVID-19 public health orders and guidance when such failure violates a child's personal right to safe and healthful accommodations or results in a risk or threat to the health or safety of children in care. In addition, CDSS works cooperatively with other government entities to help mitigate the spread of infection during public health emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. CCLD may cross-report to entities like local public health departments or the California Department of Industrial Relations

Division of Occupational Safety & Health (Cal/OSHA) when violations of COVID-19 requirements are determined or substantiated.

Licenses and providers should continue to follow COVID-19 requirements and guidance in all applicable PINs, in addition to guidance or instructions from health care providers, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), CDPH, Cal/OSHA, and local public health departments, as applicable.

If there are differing requirements between the most current CDC, CDPH, CCLD, Cal/OSHA, and local health department guidance or health orders, licenses and providers should follow the strictest requirements.

Additional Information

To stay informed on the COVID-19 public health emergency, please see the state's [COVID-19 website](#), including the [COVID-19 Childcare webpage](#). For additional information and resources, please see the CDSS [Child Care Licensing Website](#). If you have any questions regarding the COVID-19 public health emergency impact on child care, please contact the Department's Coronavirus General Question Inbox at CCLCOVID-19INFO@dss.ca.gov. For all other child care questions, please contact your [Local Regional Office](#).

The Department will communicate all new information to providers through Provider Information Notices (PINs). Please [sign up to be notified of new PINs here](#) and [visit the Department's website for the latest PINs](#). If you have any questions about this PIN, or about complying with any guidance that may conflict with the best interest of children in care, please contact your [local Child Care Licensing Regional Office](#).