



Office of Children and Family Services

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

SHEILA J. POOLE
Commissioner

Memo

To: DJJOY Facilities Managers and Facility Directors

From: Felicia A. B. Reid, Esq., *Deputy Commissioner*

Date: June 14, 2022

Re: Modification of Mask Requirements at OCFS-Operated Facilities

As of June 10, 2022, staff and youth at OCFS facilities are no longer required to wear masks, **except in the situations outlined below**. Visitors are also no longer required to wear masks at OCFS facilities.

Facility staff and youth remain free to wear a mask if they so choose, and facilities will continue to offer masks and face coverings to all staff, youth, and visitors. Facilities will continue to have all forms of PPE readily available and must replenish supply through the Bureau of Management and Program Support as needed.

IMPORTANT: This modification to mask expectations is subject to change based on future COVID-19 impacts. There is no change to any other COVID-19-related protocol or practice.

Masks Still Required

- **Guidance:** Facilities can find the PPE requirements for the situations below in [Guidelines for the Use of Personal Protective Equipment / Quarantine and Isolation Protocol](#) (February 23, 2021).
- **Intake Transport of New or Unknown Youth:** Staff transporting a youth from detention, a voluntary agency, or the community, and any youth being transported from those settings remain required to wear appropriate PPE during transport. This includes use of surgical masks, KN95 and N95 respirators, and other protective items. Staff remain required to follow all intake and transport protocols in place.
- **Medical Quarantine or Medical Isolation:** Any staff supervising or engaging with a youth or unit on medical quarantine or isolation remain required to wear all specified PPE.
- **Medical and Dental Services:** Medical and dental staff, while engaging in direct treatment of youth (e.g. responding to a medical emergency, administering medication, during a physical exam of a youth, during a dental procedure, etc.), as well as any non-medical or dental staff in the treatment area supervising youth, remain required to wear masks and other appropriate PPE.
- **CPM Training:** During the CPM portion of Juvenile Justice Basic Training (JJBT) and at CPM refreshers that locally occur at facilities or CMSOs, staff and trainers must wear masks and/or face coverings.
- **Off-Site Visits Where the Provider Requires Masks:** Some community programs and services require that youth and supervising staff wear masks when the youth is there to receive services. Facilities should be

aware of these providers' policies *before* transporting youth off-site and arrange for youth and staff to have masks to wear before leaving the facility. Youth and staff will comply with these providers' requirements.

CC:

S. Poole	R. Strauser	J. Guo
S. Miles-Gustave	T. Bromirski	J. Greening
W. Baer	J. Horne	
N. Aledort	M. Carpenter	
C. Hernandez	E. Purdy	
R. MacGiffert	K. Sena	
J. Tomassone	N. Steinbock-Pratt	
T. Boniface	M. Williams	