



Cantalician Center for Learning

Masking Policy

Effective: August 4, 2021

On July 27th, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided updated guidance for people who are fully vaccinated, in response to the COVID-19 Delta variant. Almost all new COVID cases are a result of the Delta variant. The high transmissibility of the variant has led to the number of hospitalizations doubling over the past month. The Delta variant spreads quickly, and even vaccinated people can spread it.

Here are the main highlights of the guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>

- To maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission.
- Wearing a mask is most important if you have a weakened immune system or if, because of your age or an underlying medical condition, you are at increased risk of disease or if someone in your household has a weakened immune system, is at increased risk for severe disease, or is unvaccinated. If this applies to you or your household, you might choose to wear a mask regardless of the level of transmission in your area.
- You should continue to wear a mask where required by laws, rules, regulations, or local guidance.
- If you've been around someone who has COVID-19, you should get tested 3-5 days after your exposure, even if you don't have symptoms. You should also wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until your test result is negative. You should isolate for 10 days if your test result is positive.
- If you travel in the United States, you do not need to get tested before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel.
- You need to pay close attention to the situation at your international destination before traveling outside the United States.
- You do NOT need to get tested before leaving the United States unless your destination requires it.
- You still need to show a negative test result or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 before boarding an international flight to the United States.
- You should still get tested 3-5 days after international travel.
- You do NOT need to self-quarantine after arriving in the United States

In response to this updated guidance and Governor recommendations, Cantalician Center for Learning has made the decision to resume requiring face covering for all employees, visitors, persons receiving services/students across all divisions. Please see the updated procedures below. These procedures are effective tomorrow, 8/4/2021.

Operational Procedures:

1. All employees must follow agency procedures based on Department of Health Guidance / CDC guidance, and all applicable guidance from oversight agencies (e.g. OPWDD, NYSED, OCFS, etc.).

2. Regardless of vaccination status, all employees must wear a face covering inside the workplace, when performing their job responsibilities in the community, and during the delivery of services with persons served. Employees are to follow the requirements of other businesses and establishments.
 - Employees may remove their face covering when they are working by themselves in a closed off work area (e.g. office) but must place the face covering back on if another person enters that work area or when leaving that closed work area.
 - In cubicle spaces, fully vaccinated employees may remove their face covering but must place the face covering back on if another person enters their cubicle space.
- Face coverings may be removed for eating and drinking, and when outdoors.
3. Department leadership is responsible with implementing strategies to help ensure that all employees and visitors entering the worksite are wearing a face covering. Face coverings should be available at all locations. Disposable face coverings should be available for visitors. Department leadership is responsible with coordinating the replenishment and distribution of supplies (e.g. contacting the finance department for procurement; contacting the facilities department for supply delivery).

Persons Receiving Services – OPWDD - Day Services

- Regardless of vaccination status, persons receiving services should wear a face covering if they can medically tolerate one.
- This would include any underlying diagnosis where mask-wearing is contraindicated or for any disability which prohibits the person receiving services from keeping a mask on.
- If a person receiving services cannot medically tolerate wearing a face covering, they should still be able to access programming / community inclusion, but the treatment team should consider how most safely accommodate the risk and document.
- Face coverings are not required when eating or drinking, or when outdoors.

Students – New York State Education / OCFS - Academic Services

- Regardless of vaccination status, students should wear a face covering if they can medically tolerate one.
- Face coverings may be challenging for students (especially younger students) to wear in all-day settings such as school, so scheduling mask breaks is important. Face coverings should not be placed on:
 - Children younger than 2 years old;
 - Students where such covering would impair their health or mental health, or where such covering would present a challenge, distraction, or obstruction to education services and instruction;
 - Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious; or
 - Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance
- Students and staff may use alternate PPE (i.e., face coverings that are transparent at or around the mouth) for instruction or interventions that require visualization of the movement of the lips and/or mouths (e.g., speech therapy). These alternate coverings may also be used for certain students (e.g., hearing impaired) who benefit from being able to see more of the face of the staff member.
- Alternate PPE may only be used for these specific purposes and under the direction of school leadership.
- Face coverings are not required when eating or drinking, or when outdoors.

Children - Office of Child and Family Services – Child Care

- Children ages 2 and older should be encouraged to wear a face covering except when they are eating, drinking, or sleeping/resting.
- Young children/campers (i.e., those that are not yet in kindergarten) do not need to wear face coverings when they are in child care or day camp program facility or area.
- Face coverings should never be worn by children under age 2, or by a child unable to medically tolerate a face covering.
- Face coverings are not required when eating or drinking, or when outdoors.