



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE: May 28, 2021

TO: **Child Day Centers, Short-Term Child Day Centers, Certified Preschools, Voluntarily Registered Family Day Homes, Family Day Homes, Family Day Systems, Religiously Exempt Child Day Centers, Child Care Programs Filing Exempt, and Unlicensed Child Day Programs Receiving Child Care Subsidy Assistance**

FROM: **Tara Ragland, Director, Division of Licensing Programs**

RE: **Executive Order Seventy-Nine and Order of Public Health Emergency Ten-Face Mask Clarification**

Governor Northam's [Executive Order Seventy-Nine and Order of Public Health Emergency Ten](#), effective at midnight on May 28, 2021, includes revised guidance about face masks for vaccinated individuals. [CDC Guidance for Child Care Settings](#) remains in place, and the Virginia Department of Health along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continue to recommend that **masks be used indoors for children over age two and for all staff in child care settings, regardless of vaccination status.**

All child care programs should continue safety measures as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Virginia Department of Health to include keeping children physically distanced to the extent possible, cohorting, implementing consistent caregivers to the extent possible, using face masks while indoors (face masks should not be used for children under two years of age), monitoring children and staff for symptoms, infection control, and maintaining ongoing compliance with the [Virginia Department of Health](#) and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) health and safety recommendations.

Child care programs are encouraged to monitor [Governor Northam's updates to Executive Orders](#) for any additional changes. Guidelines and information for child care programs in response to COVID-19 will be updated to reflect this information, the transition and oversight of child care to the Department of Education, and any other changes from the administration.

Thank you for safely serving Virginia's children and families.