

Adult Foster Home Provider Alert

Policy updates, rule clarifications and announcements

Date: July 8th, 2020
To: APD Adult Foster Home Providers
From: Safety, Oversight and Quality Unit
Topic: **Governor Brown’s New Statewide Requirement – COVID-19**

The Oregon Health Authority recently issued a [bulletin](#) showing that COVID-19 is increasing significantly in Oregon. Under new modeling, OHA said Oregonians should prepare to see “exponential growth” in coronavirus infections in the next three weeks — with roughly 900 to 4,800 new daily infections possible under moderate to pessimistic models.

Based on Gov. Brown’s new statewide requirement, adult foster home licensees and caregivers will be required to wear a mask or face covering when delivering any in-person care within six feet of the resident.

- An adult foster care provider who can document a medical need not to wear a mask is exempt.
- If the licensee or resident manager live in the AFH with the residents, they are not required to wear a mask when providing care.
- If a mask triggers challenging behavior in a resident, mask wearing is not required.
- If masks are unavailable, the licensee must document on-going efforts to obtain masks by contacting their local licensor or maintaining a log such as the one attached.

The Aging and People with Disabilities Department (APD) considers failure to follow the Department’s COVID related policies a serious threat endangering the health, safety, or welfare of individuals in a program and as such must be reported to the Department under OAR 411-051-0105(4)(e).

Not only will APD take action when a provider allows a symptomatic employee to have contact with residents, it will use whatever authority it has to take action when a provider

fails to comply with APD's policy described in the reopening guides or with the direction of the Governor's office, the Local Public Health Authority or the Oregon Health Agency Public Health Department. Staff that are symptomatic must not be allowed to work or have contact with residents.

We appreciate the work being done to keep people safe and recognize the role of all partners and providers in leading by example and demonstrating the importance of following precautions, like wearing a face covering, for older adults and adults with disabilities.

Gov. Brown also issued a [new statewide requirement](#) that face coverings be worn in any indoor public space as of 7/1/2020.

For questions or concerns, please email us at APD.AFHTeam@dhsoha.state.or.us.

