

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

Children's Center

University of Maine Departmental Records

3-28-2022

Children's Center_COVID Update

Kimberly Dodge-Cummings
University of Maine

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/c19_childcenter



Part of the [Early Childhood Education Commons](#), [Higher Education Commons](#), [History Commons](#), and the [Medicine and Health Sciences Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Dodge-Cummings, Kimberly, "Children's Center_COVID Update" (2022). *Children's Center*. 13.
https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/c19_childcenter/13

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Center by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

Dear Families,

As you all know, we get our health and safety guidance from the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the University of Maine System. While DHHS made wearing face coverings optional in childcare on March 9, we continued to follow the university's protocols. Today, March 28, it has been confirmed that face coverings will be optional in all Children's Center programs.

We have had the children and staff continue to wear masks today, but they will be optional on March 29. Please make the Children's Center staff aware if you want your child to continue to wear a face mask.

We understand that some families will not be comfortable with optional face coverings, just as we have families who did not want mandatory face coverings. We ask for everyone's flexibility and understanding as we follow DHHS, Maine CDC UMS guidance, as we have throughout the pandemic. Currently, face coverings are optional with low COVID-19 rates. If it is deemed that we need to wear face masks in the future, we will do so. For additional information, please see the DHHS letter attached.

We now have at-home COVID-19 tests from DHHS and have allotted four tests per child. You also can have your child tested at a pediatrician's office. Note, too, that UMS insurance is reimbursing families for COVID test kits. Please reach out to the HR Benefits Office for more information.

If your child tests negative but still has signs of illness, we will still require your child to be picked up.

We also will now be participating in the [test-to-stay program](#) rather than close for 10 days if your child is a close contact.

If your child is a close contact, we will require them to test on days 1, 3 and 5; be asymptomatic to participate in our program; and wear a face covering for the 10 days. Children under 2 will be tested on days 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9. (The tests state that they are for 2 years and older, but FDA says that they are safe and accurate for children under 2.)

Out of necessity, our Children's Center hours will remain 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Staffing shortages continue to be an issue in childcare programs statewide and we apologize for the inconvenience.

I hope you and your families are well. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Take good care.