

July 31, 2020

Dear Families,

Governor Evers of WI added an Executive Order and an Emergency Order this week regarding COVID-19 and wearing masks in indoor spaces. Based on this information, we added the WI Emergency Order number to our COVID-19 In Center Practices. We have not made any changes to our Health Screen at this time. The information from Governor Evers can be found on the following sites:

- Press release: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIGOV/bulletins/2980ec0>
- Executive Order #82 – Declaring a Public Health Emergency:
https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WIGOV/2020/07/30/file_attachments/1507488/EO082-PHECOVIDSecondSpike%20%28003%29.pdf
- Emergency Order #1 – Mask wearing:
https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WIGOV/2020/07/30/file_attachments/1507337/EMO01-FaceCoverings.pdf

For reference, the MN Executive order regarding wearing masks can be found here:
https://mn.gov/governor/assets/EO%2020-81%20Final%20Filed_tcm1055-441323.pdf

With both states Partners In Excellence operates in requiring face masks, we want to share again some information we've found helpful:

MN Department of Health, children and mask information: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/masks.html>

MN Department of Health, Face Covering Requirements: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecover.html>

MN Department of Health, FAQ about wearing a mask: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecoverfaq.html>

WI Department of Health, Avoid Illness, including mask patterns: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/protect.htm>

CDC Cloth Face coverings, including how to make: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

Partners In Excellence wants to support all of our families in any way that we can throughout the pandemic. With the new MN mask mandate, one thing that Partners can do is work with your child to tolerate mask wearing. If you are interested in having a supplemental program created for your child to increase their tolerance of wearing a mask please contact your child's Program Supervisor or a staff member at your child's site.

We also realize that going out in public or community settings is already difficult for most families and with the addition of a mask mandate this may create some difficult conversations with strangers. Below are some suggestions as to what can be said:

"My child is exempt from the order due to developmental disabilities that prevent he/she from participating in the guidelines."

"My child has autism which exempts he/she from participating in the mask mandate."

"My child has been given an exemption to the mask mandate."

"My child is not able to safely wear a mask."

Below are some resources that could be used to explain the mask mandate and /or social distancing to children:

<https://www.amazon.com/Masked-Ninja-Childrens-Kindness-Preventing-ebook/dp/B08BWBWYQW3>

https://www.amazon.com/Lucys-Mask-Lisa-Sirkis-Thompson/dp/B088VXBWD2/ref=pd_sbs_14_5/139-7790586-7038413?_encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=B088VXBWD2&pd_rd_r=d5be0f0e-e2e1-4c40-a802-ec4b553f81f5&pd_rd_w=KHOc6&pd_rd_wg=lcAvT&pf_rd_p=bc074051-81d1-4874-a3fd-fd0c867ce3b4&pf_rd_r=60XZZ2PPXHX5NTGE4RN2&psc=1&refRID=60XZZ2PPXHX5NTGE4RN2

<https://www.amazon.com/What-Social-Distancing-Childrens-Activity/dp/B086MJNY5X>

https://www.amazon.com/Little-SPOT-Stays-Home-Distancing/dp/1951287312/ref=pd_lpo_14_t_0/139-7790586-7038413?_encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=1951287312&pd_rd_r=c96db102-f5f1-4846-9996-42fa103a835f&pd_rd_w=dtES1&pd_rd_wg=vq3lx&pf_rd_p=7b36d496-f366-4631-94d3-61b87b52511b&pf_rd_r=3FJER0VQ2DA249BP3T1Z&psc=1&refRID=3FJER0VQ2DA249BP3T1Z

Stay Safe and Happy Friday!

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