



## Office of Children and Family Services

KATHY HOCHUL  
Governor

SHEILA J. POOLE  
Commissioner

February 10, 2022

Dear Provider,

Yesterday, Governor Hochul announced updated guidance regarding statewide business mask mandates. Effective today the statewide mask requirement for indoor businesses is lifted. **However, masks are still required in schools and in child care settings that are licensed, registered, or enrolled by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS).**

The OCFS mandate was implemented by emergency regulation on September 16, 2021. The face covering requirement was issued pursuant to OCFS's authority and obligation to maintain health and safety in all settings we oversee and was issued in accordance with public health recommendations of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the NYS Department of Health. A copy of these regulations is available on our website (<https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/legal/Regulatory/er/>). Those emergency regulations remain in place through April 17, 2022. If this information changes sooner, you will be notified by OCFS.

You should also know that your local department of health has authority to issue mask mandates or other COVID-19 directives, and those directives are not impacted by the governor's announcement. For more information on the Governor's announcement please go to: [Governor Hochul Announcement](#)

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to keeping yourself, your staff, and the children in your care safe during this challenging time. If you have any questions, please reach out to your regulator.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janice Molnar".

Janice M. Molnar, Ph.D.  
Deputy Commissioner  
Division of Child Care Services