

## **Guidance on the Use of Masks and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Masks are not recommended for children, particularly those under the age of two (see information about the use of face coverings on the provincial COVID-19 website - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/face-coverings-and-face-masks>).

### **PPE Requirements**

KCELC will follow Toronto Public Health guidelines regarding the use of masks. As of September 1<sup>st</sup> 2020, all adults in a child care setting are required to wear medical masks and eye protection (i.e., face shield). In addition:

- Gloves must be worn when it is anticipated that hands will come into contact with mucous membranes, broken skin, tissue, blood, bodily fluids, secretions, excretions, contaminated equipment or environmental surfaces.

All child care staff, home child care providers, home child care visitors and students on educational placement are required to wear medical masks (e.g. surgical/ procedural) while inside a child care setting, including in hallways and staff rooms (unless eating – but time with masks off should be limited and physical distance should be maintained).

Eye protection (e.g. face shield or goggles) is required for individuals working in close contact with children who are not wearing face protection (children younger than grade 1). Eye protection is not required for individuals working with children who wear face protection (children grade 1 and above).

Masking and eye protection are not required outdoors. Physical distancing is strongly encouraged between groups.

### **PPE Procedure**

When wearing a mask, you should wash your hands before donning the mask and before and after removing the mask. For more information, refer to the Resources section of our COVID-19 webpage under '*PPE Recommended Steps\_PHO*'.

Perform and promote frequent, proper hand hygiene (including supervising or assisting children with hand hygiene). Hand washing using soap and water is recommended over alcohol-based hand rub for children. For more information about this refer to '*Factsheet COVID-19 Hand Hygiene\_PHO*' in the Resource section of our COVID-19 webpage.

### **Procedure Review**

This policy and procedure will be reviewed and signed off by all employees/volunteers prior to commencing employment at KCELC, and at any time where a change is made.