

### **Expectations for Use of Masks for all DCF Staff**

All DCF staff must wear a mask while in the office in common areas. **Cloth masks** can be worn in the office when staff are **not having** direct, in-person contact with children, families, providers, or anyone else as part of their function.

All DCF staff must wear a **surgical/procedural mask when having direct, in-person contact** with children, families, providers or anyone else as part of their function. This includes staff conducting home visits, transporting children/adults, supervising visits, attending court hearings, etc.; and staff working in our facilities. Staff must ensure that children 2 years and older and all adults they are interacting with are also wearing a mask, including during transports. Additional masks and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are available at all DCF locations to ensure staff have masks available for themselves as well as children and/or adults they are having direct, in-person contact with.

If staff encounter individuals who refuse to wear a mask, staff must wear a **surgical/procedural mask AND a face shield** and stand more than 6 feet away from the individual to limit exposure.

Asking someone to put on a mask could be uncomfortable, but could be as simple as saying, "for everyone's safety, it is best if we all wear our masks. If you don't have one, I have some extra ones you could have." The key is to not shame the person.

All DCF staff who may have higher risk exposure, or are having direct, in-person contact with children and families who are COVID 19 positive must wear a **KN95 Respirator Mask AND a face shield**.

FASU staff facilitating finger printing for prospective foster parents must wear a surgical/procedural mask **AND** a face shield.

### **Close Contact Defined**

For DCF staff, **close contact** is defined as being within 6 feet of someone who is positive for COVID 19 for greater than 15 minutes cumulatively in a 24-hour period.

***Other examples of close contact include:***

- Neither party was wearing a mask - consider a close contact
- Only one party was wearing a mask - considered a close contact
- Either party was wearing a cloth mask or mask with a valve - considered a close contact

***Any time a mask is removed, even momentarily, the probability of transmission is increased.***

The proper use of a mask (nose and mouth covered) reduces the probability of transmission. The following **are not** considered close contact:

- Both parties were appropriately wearing a surgical/procedural mask or a respirator type mask (nose and mouth covered) - not considered a close contact
- Party without COVID 19 was wearing a surgical/procedural or a KN95 Respirator mask **AND** face shield, but party with COVID 19 was not wearing a mask or was wearing a cloth mask - not consider a close contact

The surgical/procedural mask and KN95 respirator mask prevents particle spread during talking or coughing.