

Update on wearing masks - Greater Brisbane lockdown 08/01/2021

Dear Families,

We have now received advice from Queensland Health about the wearing of masks in Early Education and Care settings from 6pm tonight, Friday 8 January until 6pm Monday 11 January.

As Queensland Health has advised that all people must wear masks at all times when outside their home, **all staff and visitors to C&K centres are required to wear a mask**. Please note that children 12 years and under and people affected by a medical condition are exempt.

All adults will need to wear a mask when attending the centre. Any parent/caregiver arriving at the centre without a mask will need to stay outside. Please ensure you are wearing a mask when you arrive on Monday morning.

I understand that you may have some concerns about teachers and educators wearing masks whilst caring for and educating your children. We want to assure you that the safety of your children, families and staff is our first priority. While we are required to wear masks over this period, we are able to remove our mask when communicating with young children. This isn't just when talking with children as we know that children use many non-verbal means of communication including reading expressions. Our staff will be wearing a mask when they are not directly communicating with children, when they leave a room with children, enter the staff room or foyer and on their way to and from work.

We encourage you to talk with your children about why people are being asked to wear masks and listen to their ideas and questions – our teachers and educators will be doing the same thing and will use this as an opportunity to allow your child to learn more about masks in our community.

The Queensland Government has created some advice for wearing a mask. More information can be found [here](#).

How to wear a mask

- Clean your hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub (made up of over 60% alcohol or 70% isopropanol) before you put on your mask.
- Hold the mask by its tapes or loops, then tie the mask around your head or put the loops around your ears.
- Make sure the mask completely covers your mouth and nose, and that there are no gaps between your face and the mask. If you are using a surgical mask, press the nose piece around your nose.
 - If you are using a mask with ear loops, you can use a plastic clip or tie to join the ends together at the back of your head to make sure it fits securely on your face.
 - Make sure that your mask does not have holes or a valve, as if you have COVID-19, you can breathe out the virus.
 - Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth or the front of the mask while wearing it.
 - If the mask gets soiled or damp, replace it with a new one.

Please remember

- Stay at home if you are sick or have flu-like symptoms
- Get tested if you have any COVID-19 symptoms
- Stay 1.5 metres away from other people
- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser

Handwashing remains the most important barrier to transmitting infection. Please be vigilant in washing your hands when you arrive at the centre.

Please be reminded that you or your child cannot attend a C&K centre if you have any COVID-19 symptoms. You must get a COVID-19 test and remain at home until your results are known. Staff may be required to take your child's temperature on arrival at the centre.

To keep up to date with the latest Queensland Government advice, please [refer here](#).

If you have any questions about the Greater Brisbane lockdown and how it affects your centre, please contact the dedicated Coronavirus Advice Line at advice@candk.asn.au or call 07 3513 2591.

Thank you for your understanding.

Take care,

Dr Sandra Cheeseman
Chief Operating Officer