



Department of Public Health

Monroe County, New York

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Monroe County Public Health Commissioner announces new recommendation for area childcare providers

Today, Dr. Michael Mendoza, Commissioner of the Monroe County Department of Public Health, strongly encouraged local childcare providers to adopt universal masking for children over two years of age.

“This is particularly important for kindergartners on up, as it is a requirement in their schools,” said Dr. Mendoza. “I believe adherence to masking and social distancing in schools have made them among the safest places in our community. It makes sense to extend the school guidelines, as much as possible, to childcare settings.”

New York State Department of Health guidelines for childcare providers, published in June, indicate children who have not entered kindergarten “do not need to wear face coverings when they are in child care,” and older children are “encouraged but not required to wear face coverings.”

As Monroe County is experiencing an increase in positive cases, Dr. Mendoza says the additional recommendation “strongly encouraging” universal mask wearing could help control the current spread. He urges parents to talk with their childcare providers about this recommendation.

Dr. Mendoza advises parents of children who qualify for a medical exemption from mask wearing to complete and submit a Medical Exemption Form to their childcare provider. The form is available at www.monroecounty.gov/health-COVID-19.