



**Noah's Ark Children's Center**  
**Salem United Methodist Church**  
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### Face Covering ("Mask") Guidance 2020-21 School Year

The CDC, Maryland Department of Health (MDH), and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) recommend the use of face coverings ("masks") in the childcare/preschool setting when feasible. Noah's Ark asks that all students wear a mask in the classroom (where developmentally appropriate) and staff must wear a mask while indoors.

Noah's Ark will use the following guidance for masks for students. Masks **MUST**:

- Be worn over the nose and mouth, never around the neck or over the head.
- Be stored properly between uses if the same mask is to be reused.
- Be able to be removed by the student for snacks, outdoor play when social distancing can be maintained, or when it must be replaced.
- Be removed and replaced if it becomes wet or soiled.
- Be removed and not replaced if the child has trouble breathing.

Masks **MUST NOT**:

- Be shared between students.
- Have any attachments.
- Pose a strangulation risk (no neck gaiters or bandanas).
- Be worn while playing outside if social distancing can be maintained.

When putting on and taking off a mask:

- Only the student may handle it
- The student must wash hands before and after touching it.
- Handle the masks by the straps only
- Avoid touching the eyes, nose, or mouth

Parental responsibility for masks:

- Provide as many clean masks as the student may need each day.
- Make sure masks are clearly labeled with the student's name.
- Make sure each mask is clearly labeled as to which side faces out.
- Teach your student how to properly wear the mask, plus how to put it on and take it off.
- Help the student get used to wearing the mask at home under supervision.
- Launder the student's mask(s) regularly if reusable. If disposable, send in a new supply as necessary.

Staff responsibility for masks:

- Observe students to ensure they are using masks properly and safely.
- Make sure masks are properly stored when not worn.
- Send used masks home every day.
- Inform parents about the need for more masks for their student.