

## Updates to The Baby Fold's Agency COVID Protocols

Effective April 26, 2022

In the Agency communication dated March 9, 2022, we shared that The Baby Fold would be implementing a series of steps designed to change/update the current mandated COVID protocols and align our operational practices more closely with the guidance provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health and Centers for Disease Control.

***Please be advised that effective April 26, 2022, The Baby Fold will move to a MASK OPTIONAL practice among the majority of our offices and programs.***

### WHAT DOES "MASK OPTIONAL" MEAN?

Mask optional means that individuals will be allowed to choose whether and when to use a mask while occupying buildings on site at Baby Fold locations. ***All individuals should expect that their masking choice will be respected by others, and all individuals will be required to extend that same level of respect for their co-workers' choices.***

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

- Masks will be **optional** in all Baby Fold buildings. This includes:
  - Mason Hall
  - Asher Hall
  - 612 & 614 Oglesby
  - Fort Jesse
  - Susan Drive
  - Urbana offices
  - Springfield offices
- Masks will be **optional** in **copy and file rooms**, even where social distancing capabilities are limited
- Masks will continue to be **optional** in **Hammitt School buildings**

### WHEN WILL I STILL NEED A MASK?

- **In-home service delivery programs** will continue to comply with contractual guidance from our State agencies, and may maintain masking requirements for specific programs/situations. Employees providing in-home service delivery should consult with their Department Director and Program Managers/Supervisors for guidance on masking requirements related to client service delivery.
- Masks will **still be required** when returning to work from a **quarantine** due to COVID-19 exposure or an **isolation** period due to a positive test and/or confirmed COVID-19 symptoms. CDC guidelines reference wearing a well-fitting mask for:
  - **10 days** from the date of your last close contact with someone with COVID-19, or

- **5 days** from the end of your isolation period after testing positive for COVID-19.

**OTHER CURRENT AGENCY COVID PROTOCOLS THAT WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT:**

- All agency employees should continue to report any changes in their COVID vaccination status to the COVID-19 Documentation email.
- Reporting of COVID positivity, close contacts to persons who test positive for COVID, and agency Isolation and Quarantine protocols will remain in place.
- We request that departments refrain from convening “mask optional” meetings where social distancing is not possible, and continue to use Zoom or Microsoft Teams options instead.
- **Mandated weekly testing of unvaccinated employees will continue to be in effect. Please note that we are continuing to discuss and evaluate this protocol as well, and will review any necessary changes during the month of May.**

*We will continue to evaluate and make changes to our Agency COVID Protocols as we move through the month of May. We will also continue to monitor our service area COVID metrics for changes in positivity rates.*

*The updates listed above will be adopted as an Addendum to our current Agency COVID Protocols, as published via the Employee Access portal on our website.*