

# Policy Transmittal Aging and People with Disabilities



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**Authorized signature**

**Number: APD-PT-20-087**

**Issue date: 7/13/2020**

**Topic:** Licensing

**Due date: 7/13/2020**

**Transmitting (check the box that best applies):**

- New policy     Policy change     Policy clarification     Executive letter  
 Administrative Rule     Manual update     Other: Temporary Policy

**Applies to (check all that apply):**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees                             | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging: Type B     | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services                                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aging and People with Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self Sufficiency Programs                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Intensive In Home Services           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD program managers                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU)                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support Service Brokerage Directors           | <input type="checkbox"/> Other ( <i>please specify</i> ):                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Residential Services          |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Welfare Programs                        |   |

<b>Policy/rule title:</b>	Mask requirements for AFH Providers		
<b>Policy/rule number(s):</b>		<b>Release number:</b>	
<b>Effective date:</b>	7/8/2020	<b>Expiration date:</b>	
<b>References:</b>			
<b>Web address:</b>			

**Discussion/interpretation:** The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) recently issued a [bulletin](#) showing that COVID-19 is increasing significantly in Oregon. Under new modeling, OHA said Oregonians should prepare to see “exponential growth” in coronavirus infections in the next three weeks — with roughly 900 to 4,800 new daily infections possible under moderate to pessimistic models.

Gov. Brown also issued a [new statewide requirement](#) that face coverings be worn in any indoor public space as of 7/1/2020.

Adult foster home (AFH) providers are expected to follow all Department policies

described in the reopening guides, the direction of the Governor's office, direction from Local Public Health Authorities and the Oregon Health Agency Public Health Department.

### **Implementation/transition instructions:**

Based on Gov. Brown's new statewide requirement, AFH licensees and caregivers will be required to wear a mask or face covering when delivering any in-person care within six feet of the resident. Face coverings can include a surgical mask, homemade cloth mask or face shield. When working with symptomatic residents or those with confirmed COVID-19, defer to the precautions outlined by OHA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Exceptions to this may be granted if:

- An adult foster care provider who can document a medical need not to wear a mask is exempt.
- The licensee or resident manager lives in the AFH with the residents they care for.
- Wearing a mask triggers challenging behavior in a resident (this needs to be documented in the resident's care plan).

If masks are unavailable, the licensee must document on-going efforts to obtain masks by contacting their local licenser or maintaining a log such as the one attached.

Failure to follow the Department's COVID related policies is considered a serious threat endangering the health, safety, or welfare of individuals in a program. Local licensing offices and licensing staff must report concerns to the Department under OAR 411-051-0105(4)(e).

The Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) Division program will use its authority to take action against providers who: (1) Allow a symptomatic employee to have contact with residents; and (2) Fail to comply with APD's policies described in the reopening guides, or the direction from the Governor's office, the Local Public Health Authority or the Oregon Health Authority, Public Health program.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include but are not limited to: fever greater than 100.4, dry cough, tiredness, headache, loss of taste or smell, or difficulty breathing.

We appreciate the work being done to keep people safe and recognize the role of all partners and providers in leading by example and demonstrating the importance of following precautions, like wearing a face covering, for older adults and adults with disabilities.

**Training/communication plan:** Provider alert and follow-up as needed.

**Local/branch action required:** Help to educate providers and assist in answering questions.

**Central office action required:** On-going support of local office staff.

**Field/stakeholder review:**  Yes  No

**If yes, reviewed by:** APD policy team

**Filing instructions:**

*If you have any questions about this policy, contact:*

Contact(s): AFH Policy team	
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Email: APD.AFHTeam@dhsosha.state.or.us	