WCCC’s Early Childhood Program: Updated Mask Guidance for August 2022

After meeting with our Pediatric Health Consultant and speaking with Catherine Cuddy, Wellesley College’s Covid point person, we will be changing our mask guidance beginning on August 1, 2022. Our plan is to test out our new policy for the month of August with our current group of children. During our Prep Week, we will evaluate the Updated Mask Guidance in terms of the number of Covid cases in our community and challenges/successes for children in our classrooms. We will weigh the risk/benefits with our consultants at the end of the month and create a Mask Guidance Plan for September 2022.

We have adjusted our masking policy beginning on August 1, 2022 with the following information in mind:

--Children under 5 years old are eligible to receive a Covid vaccination and many children in our community are now better protected from the most severe consequences of contracting this virus.

--Beginning on Monday, August 1, 2022, Wellesley College will move to mask optional inside all buildings with professors and staff determining mask requirements for their individual classrooms and offices.

--During the month of July, we have had 4 cases of Covid in our community, which is down significantly from previous months.

Beginning on Monday, August 1, 2022 masks will be required inside the Early Childhood Building only in the following circumstances:

--If there is a case of Covid in a WCCC classroom, teachers and children will wear masks throughout the duration of Test and Stay.

--Adults who contract Covid must wear a KN-95 mask at all times both inside and outside on Days 6-10 or until they receive one negative rapid test.

--Adults with a household member with Covid must wear a KN-95 mask at all times both inside and outside until 48 hours after their household member receives one negative rapid test.

--Anyone who presents with a fever must wear a mask until they have left the building.

--Anyone who presents with more than one symptom from the Covid list must wear a mask until they have received a negative rapid test or have left the building.

--We recommend that wearing an indoor mask for 3 days after attending a large indoor gathering or traveling would be in the best interest of the health of our community.
If none of the conditions listed above have been met:
--Children under 2 years of age will not wear a mask for any reason.

--Children over 2 years of age will not wear a mask inside unless their parent asks that teachers
direct their child to mask inside. If parents want their child to mask inside, we ask that you
explain your reasons to your child, if developmentally appropriate, and make sure they are
aware that not all children will be wearing a mask inside for the month of August.

--Parents who want their child to wear a mask inside should make sure to also wear a mask
inside to serve as a role model for their child (i.e. “In our family, we wear a mask inside.”)

Explaining the Change of Policy To Children
On Thursday, July 28 Darlene visited toddler and preschool classrooms to share a social story
about mask wearing; this story is also posted in the hallway. We will tell children that there
may be times when everyone has to wear a mask, but that beginning on Monday there will also
be times when many adults and children will not wear a mask inside the school building. We
will tell older children that their parents will make the best decision for their family. We will
also tell them that mask wearing is a decision for Grown Ups, so children do not need to worry
about it at all.