



## MASKING UPDATE

March 30, 2023

Dear Holly Ridge Families,

Kitsap Public health district released a recommendation on March 24<sup>th</sup> calling for a continuation of masking requirements in healthcare settings. This was a recommendation made in alignment with several other local health districts as well as Seattle Children's Hospital, UW Medical Center, and others. The updated masking guidelines do allow for some flexibility and with that, medical centers are updating their masking policies. The Washington State Department of Health previously announced the end of masking in healthcare settings as of April 3<sup>rd</sup> but did state that local health authorities may still recommend or require masking in response to the conditions of their communities.

What does this change mean for Holly Ridge families and staff?

1. Starting April 3<sup>rd</sup> -Families and staff continue to be required to wear masks at Holly Ridge Center facilities.
2. Staff will no longer be required to wear masks when they are out in the community providing services at homes, childcare settings, or other public places. Holly Ridge staff may choose to wear masks based on their personal preference. HRC staff will follow protocols at childcare facilities as needed.

What happens if a family still wants a provider to wear a mask when they come into their home?

1. Families should communicate directly with their providers if they would like Holly Ridge staff to wear a mask when they come to their home. Holly Ridge staff will honor the request and will have masks available to use.

Staff and families are encouraged to wear masks at their discretion. Masks can be a useful tool to help mitigate the spread of disease. The option to wear a mask is a personal choice for each individual.

Holly Ridge will continue to complete health screenings on a routine basis, we ask if your child or anyone in your home is not feeling well to please cancel your appointment(s) for the day. Staff will also cancel appointments as needed due to illness.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your Family Resources Coordinator.

Sincerely,

Alicia Skelly

Infant Toddler Program Director