



JULY 1, 2020

Re: Nashville Face Coverings/Masks Mandate

Dear parents and colleagues:

Autism ETC Nashville was closed on Friday, June 26th out of an abundance of caution following a possible COVID-19 (Coronavirus) exposure within the clinic. Autism ETC Nashville is scheduled to reopen on Monday, July 6th with a normal schedule. Beginning Monday, July 6th, Autism ETC will implement its Code Blue Policy by maximizing social distancing and implementing twice-daily temperature checks.

Complicating matters further, the Metro Public Health Department of Nashville/Davidson County issued Order 8 from Dr. Michael Caldwell, Chief Medical Director of Health on Monday, June 29th. The new order requires the use of face coverings or masks while in public. The order is to remain in effect indefinitely. Additional information and the full order can be found on the Nashville Government's website ([asafenashville.org/updates/](https://www.asafenashville.org/updates/)).

Beginning Monday July 6th, Autism ETC will implement the mandatory wearing of face coverings within its Nashville clinic including all employees and public visitors. Face coverings are required at all times with the following exceptions:

- Children under the age of 12 are not required to wear masks at any time, pursuant to the order from the Health Department.
- Staff will not wear masks while engaging in 1:1 therapy in our private isolation areas pursuant to the order which allows removal of face coverings when social distancing can be insured.
- Our therapists routinely go outside the clinic during the day, weather permitting. Pursuant to the order, face coverings may be removed in public workplaces and outdoors provided that social distance is maintained.
- At present, this policy is only for our Nashville Clinic.

Employees and public visitors are encouraged to bring a face covering from home when visiting our clinics. Anyone who does not have a face covering will be provided a mask before entering the clinic. This policy will remain in effect indefinitely. We will update you with any future policy change.

We understand that the threat posed by COVID-19 is unwavering. Please know that we are taking this matter very seriously, and we *will* do everything in our power ensure your children's safety while they are receiving our services. Please partner with us to contain COVID-19 in our clinics by following all CDC guidance in your daily lives. We must all work together to slow the spread of disease. Guidance can be found online on the CDC's website ([cdc.gov/coronavirus/](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/)). If you have questions or concerns, please contact our office.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

Autism ETC Clinical Management Team

