ALNC Mask Policy - Updated November 2021:

Public Health Madison & Dane County has issued Face Covering Emergency Order #5 through January 3, 2022.

ALNC continues to require face masks for all adults and children age 2 and up participating in ALNC programming. Staff, volunteers, contractors, parents and caregivers of children participating in ALNC programs are required to wear a mask inside the building or in the presence of our students.

At this point, we anticipate keeping this policy in place at least through the end of the year. This policy continues to be reviewed and revised as guidelines and circumstances regarding vaccine access and recommendations for children and their caregivers continue to change.

The CDC and Public Health Madison & Dane County strongly recommend that masks be worn by anyone over two years in a childcare or youth-oriented setting, anytime indoors, or outdoors during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.

We are requiring this because:

- Many children in our core age groups are not yet vaccinated or are not currently eligible for vaccination.
- Physical distancing is difficult to implement or maintain for caregivers and is a challenge for children, changing often and suddenly.
- While the majority of our programming is outdoors, we transition in and out often (e.g. bathroom breaks) and spend time in hybrid indoor/outdoor spaces.
- Many children need assistance taking masks on and off, which is difficult for our staff to do safely with multiple children.
- It is important for staff and parents to model mask-wearing for the children.

In efforts to continue to provide access to our programming to high-risk children and other individuals, we will continue to take these simple precautions to provide a safe environment until further notice.

ALNC is committed to accessibility for all and will make reasonable accommodations for individuals with medical conditions, intellectual or developmental disabilities, or mental health conditions that prevent the individual from wearing a face covering. If you or your child are unable to wear a mask or face covering, please contact ALNC staff in advance of your program with a note from a primary care physician detailing the disability and recommended accommodations. ALNC staff will work with you to discuss alternatives and, to the best of our ability, enact a plan that will be sufficient to accommodate you/your child and not pose a direct threat of possible exposure to others.

ALNC reserves the right to remove an individual from a program who is not in compliance with our policies.

Thank you for your adherence to this policy and for doing your part to protect the health of our community.