

ALNC Policy on Face Masks and Physical Distancing

In the interest of public health during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and in an effort to protect the health of children, their families and our staff, ALNC is requiring face masks for all adults and children over the age of 2 participating in ALNC programming. This includes educators, staff, volunteers, parents, caregivers and children over the age of 2 when indoors and outdoors.

Parents and caregivers of children participating in ALNC programs are required to wear a mask at drop-off, pick-up and in outdoor meeting areas. We also ask that other visitors or hikers wear masks when in the vicinity of ALNC's facility or encountering others on our trails.

Staff are required to wear a mask at all times inside the building and outside while teaching, assisting with a program or any time other people are present.

We support the social-emotional development of children and recognize that consistently maintaining physical distance may be a challenge for them. Furthermore, the physical distance between children may change often and suddenly. We will safely maintain distance as much as possible throughout our programs, but we also know that children of all ages need free play time with friends, and maybe an occasional hand to hold. We will still be able to offer these to children as safely as possible by having both staff and children wear face masks throughout the time they are at ALNC. We will also encourage frequent handwashing.

Children may request a mask break as needed. During a mask break, a child will be physically separated from the group by a short distance while outdoors, and be allowed to remove their mask for a period of time. They will need to put their mask on again before returning to the group.

