

RITE OF PASSAGE

IMPROVING THE LIVES OF YOUTH

June 22, 2020

As an agency that serves youth in residential settings, where the COVID-19 virus can be especially contagious, ROP remains committed to supporting all best practices recommended by infectious disease experts, including the CDC and our own Dr. Adler. One of these recommendations includes the use of masks. We recognize that some parts of the country debate mask efficacy and some individuals may be reluctant to wear one, but to be clear, the CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings, especially in areas of significant community-based transmission. Masks and facial coverings are one of the most important tools we can use to block the spread of infectious droplets from one individual to another.

As the country continues to open up and staff become engaged in more and more activities outside of work, it has become even more important to follow ROP's policy that **all staff wear facial coverings on our campuses and when working with youth**. ROP's leadership will continue to make wearing masks a point of emphasis in our programs as we all work to do our part to protect our staff and students. Additionally, based on COVID-19 risk, a higher level face covering (surgical mask or KN95) may be required at your site, as directed by the Program Director. Thanks to each of you for your continued focus on following all best practices related to COVID-19. The following video is a great demonstration of how effective masks are at slowing the spread of the virus: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJ8PuUrOUAY>.

If you have questions regarding facial coverings or to seek further guidance on their use, please contact your Human Resource Department or review the resources at <https://riteofpassage.com>.