

M-NASR Safety Guidelines and Eligibility Requirements

Face Mask Requirements

Face masks will be required for individuals who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Face masks will be optional during most M-NASR programs for participants who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. An individual is considered fully vaccinated once they have passed 14 days after the administration of the final dose of the vaccine.

There are some situations, regardless of vaccination status, where face masks may still be required. These include, but are not limited to:

- While on M-NASR transportation
- While in a facility that requires face masks
- Specified guidance from the CDC, IDPH or DCEO

Some outdoor programs, where greater than six feet of physical distance is observed, may allow for masks to be removed for all participants, based on approval from the program leader.

Participants will be required to provide their own face covering. Face coverings should: 1) Fit snugly but comfortably around the face, 2) Be secured with ties or ear loops, 3) Preferably have multiple layers of fabric, 4) Allow for breathing without restriction, 5) Be clean. Disposable face coverings should not be worn more than one time. Fabric face coverings should be laundered regularly.

***UPDATE 7/29/21: Face Mask Requirement Updates (Indoor Programming and Activities)**

M-NASR has been continually following recommendations from the CDC, IDPH and our risk management agency regarding COVID-19. The latest guidance recommends that individuals, including fully vaccinated individuals, wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission. As of July 29, Cook County has reached metrics to fall into the “substantial” category.

Effective Friday, July 30, M-NASR staff and participants, regardless of vaccination status, will be required to wear face masks while attending any M-NASR indoor programs.

Eligibility for Participation

M-NASR is still planning for six feet of physical distancing as much as possible in programs, based on the assumption that not all participants are vaccinated.

Participants who are not fully vaccinated and unable to wear a mask due to medical or religious reasons and/or who need assistance with the following may be eligible to participate based on individual evaluations:

- Putting on/taking off a mask/face covering
- Maintaining six feet of physical distance
- Personal care (toileting, feeding, hygiene)
- Washing hands
- Staying with the group

If a participant is unable to wear a mask and/or independently meet the above, please contact Jennifer Gebeck at jgebeck@mnasr.org to discuss potential accommodations.

Participants who are unable to adhere to the following guidelines are not eligible for M-NASR programs:

- Ability to refrain from physically aggressive behaviors such as biting, spitting, scratching, hitting, kicking, etc. or behaviors that require direct or close proximity intervention from staff.
- Ability to follow the M-NASR Code of Conduct and other pre-determined guidelines.

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M-NASR Safety Precautions

M-NASR has taken several measures to promote safety and wellness in our programs as related to COVID-19:

- **Program capacity.** Programs will have maximum capacities to allow proper physical distancing.
- **Pickup/drop off.** Staff will develop a pickup and drop off system for each program.
- **Cleaning protocols.** Staff will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (tabletops, door handles, etc.) before and after activities and in between uses of different individuals.
- **Supplies/materials.** Participants will be provided a supply kit to limit the need for sharing when possible. Toys and learning tools not able to be sanitized will not be used.
- **Physical distancing.** M-NASR will take measures to promote six-foot physical distancing like seat assignments, outdoor activities and barriers. Physical and visual reminders will be used as well.
- **Program access.** Only registered participants and staff will be allowed to enter programs.
- **Hand washing.** Participants and staff will be asked to wash or sanitize their hands upon entry to the program area and throughout the day at transitions or specific intervals. Hand sanitizer will be readily available at each program site.
- **Personal belongings.** When possible, belongings will be separated six feet apart. Personal belongings must be taken home each day to be cleaned.
- **Food and drink.** When eating is necessary at a program, participants are encouraged to bring food in disposable containers. Containers will be put in the trash after use. When food is provided by M-NASR, it will be individually packaged. Participants will not be allowed to share food. Participants may bring a refillable water bottle, which should be taken home at the conclusion of each program.
- **At-home self-assessments.** Staff and participants must perform an at-home self-assessment every day prior to arrival at program. Staff will confirm that participants have completed the self-assessment prior to arrival.

At-Home Self-Assessment

If the answer is “yes” to any questions, participants will not be permitted to attend their scheduled program and should not return until cleared by a medical professional. Additionally, parents/guardians/participants should notify M-NASR of the reason for their absence for the day.

1. Do you have a fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher?
2. Do you have a cough, runny nose or sore throat?
3. Have you been experiencing difficulty breathing or shortness of breath?
4. Do you have muscle aches?
5. Have you had a new or unusual headache (e.g., not typical to the individual)?
6. Have you noticed a new loss of taste or loss of smell?
7. Have you been experiencing chills or rigors (i.e., a sudden feeling of cold with shivering accompanied by a rise in temperature)?
8. Do you have gastrointestinal concerns (e.g., abdominal pain, vomiting, nausea, diarrhea)?
9. Have you experienced unexplained fatigue?
10. Have you tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
11. Is anyone in your household displaying any symptoms (as listed above) of COVID-19?
12. To the best of your knowledge, in the last 14 days, have you come into close contact with anyone who has tested positive for or been diagnosed with COVID-19?

By coming to M-NASR programs, you acknowledge that you have in fact conducted this self-assessment and the information provided above is true and accurate to the best of your current knowledge and beliefs.

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Exposure or Symptoms

In the event a participant displays or develops symptoms of COVID-19 during a program, M-NASR staff will follow the procedures outlined below to isolate the individual until they can be picked up from the program site.

- If not already wearing a face covering both the participant and staff must wear a covering.
- A staff member will remain with the participant at a safe distance while reaching out to the emergency contacts and then waiting for them to arrive.
- Parents/Guardians or emergency contacts are required to pick up within 30 minutes of the initial call, preferably much sooner.
- The participant displaying symptoms will be removed from the group to a location that is a safe distance from others.
- If the facility has a designated isolation room, the individual displaying symptoms will be taken to that room until he/she can be safely picked up.
- Participants will be required to have multiple emergency contacts to ensure that someone is available to pick them up if the need arises.

If a participant has someone in their household who is symptomatic or has tested positive for COVID-19 or has been exposed/ in contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19, they should stay home and self-quarantine per CDC guidelines, and should seek a COVID-19 test. If a participant contracts COVID-19, they should notify a M-NASR full-time staff. M-NASR will work with local health officials and communicate details as needed with participants and families while maintaining confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In the event of an outbreak those considered at risk or who may have come into contact will be notified. To protect the identity of the person infected, only necessary details regarding the situation will be communicated. M-NASR asks that all participants and families cooperate in any investigation or tracing efforts M-NASR may conduct.

Personal Travel

Participants/families who travel internationally or use cruise travel will be required to notify a M-NASR full-time staff and will be asked to follow CDC guidelines with potential quarantine.