June 22, 2020

Dear Parents,

It has been 3 weeks since returning to in-person parenting time/visitation and I am so happy that you have been able to spend this time with your children. I appreciate your cooperation with the established guidelines, which has made in-person visits possible.

As the spread of COVID-19 has grown in Arizona over the last few weeks, the Department is continuing to review the directives and guidelines about in-person services and parenting time/visitation. In line with the orders enacted by cities and counties throughout Arizona, DCS will be requiring that all children and youth wear facial coverings during in-person parenting time/visitation. This requirement does not include children 6 years of age or younger. The updated guidelines are available for your review, (Parenting Time/Visitation) and (Child Contacts).

We need your continued assistance. Given the contagious nature of COVID-19, wearing facial coverings during in-person parenting time/visitation is required for the Department to continue supporting in-person visitation. If all participants in visits and services wear facial coverings, practice hand washing, and utilize virtual visitation when exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19, we can continue to support your family's health and public health.

We are also asking for your support in wearing facial coverings during services even if they are delivered in your home. Department staff as well as contracted service providers will be wearing facial coverings to promote public health and we request that you do the same.

We will all be living with COVID-19 in our communities and altering the way we engage with each other for some time. Maintaining these healthy practices is essential so that we can continue to interact and support you and your family in-person until treatments and vaccines are developed. Your cooperation with these guidelines is much appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your support,

Mike Faust
Director