

June 22, 2020

Dear Kinship, Foster and Congregate Caregivers,

As the public health crisis continues, I want to thank you for your continued commitment to serve the children in your care and support their permanency goals. Your compassion, support and commitment to serve children has not wavered despite the uncertainty and challenges that you have faced over the past 3 months.

The Department will continually review and update the directives and guidelines governing in-person visitation and services. In line with the direction of many cities and counties, effective June 22, 2020 the Department will require that all children and youth wear facial coverings while participating in parenting time/visitation. Additionally, DCS staff and contracted service providers will continue wearing facial coverings during their engagements. Children 6 year of age and younger will not be required to wear a facial covering. The updated guidelines are available for your review, ([Parenting Time/Visitation](#)) and ([Child Contacts](#)).

As the public health crisis continues and until a vaccine is available for COVID-19, the Department will continue assessing and adjusting our guidelines to support you and your family as we strive to support children, their parents and the staff conducting case management and service delivery.

Thank you again for all you do, for the support you provide and your partnership in caring for the children in foster care.

Mike Faust  
Director