

COVID-19 - GUIDE FOR MEDICAL PROVIDERS REGARDING CHILDREN IN DCS CARE AND PARENTING TIME

The child's Primary Care Provider (PCP) has the most up-to-date medical information for the child. The Department of Child Safety (DCS) will seek recommendations from the child's PCP to implement the safest type of contact for the child regarding parenting time (visitation) between the child and the parent.

- Points to consider when making medical recommendations regarding the safest type of contact for the child during parenting time:
 - * The Department of Child Safety is federally required to provide family reunification services, which includes parenting time between the child, parents, and siblings, unless the court determines it is not in the child's best interest.
 - * The preferred type parenting time is in-person, in the most natural, family-like setting possible. In-person parenting time serves to maintain the integrity of the parent-child relationship, healthy sibling relationships, and overall child and family well-being, including reduced trauma for the child.
 - * Other types of parenting time via virtual technology, phone calls, and mail are acceptable, but are primarily intended to supplement in-person parenting time.
 - * Precautions taken during visitation with the DCS specialists and parents:
 - » ALL DCS Staff and DCS Contracted Service Providers will practice good hygiene according to CDC guidelines (see below) AND be wearing a facial covering
 - » Out-of-home caregivers will be contacted ahead of time and asked if any member of their household has tested positive for COVID-19, has symptoms of COVID-19 or has been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 10 days. If yes, or if the child has been determined to be at high-risk, alternate visitation arrangements will be proactively made.



HYGIENE AND SOCIAL DISTANCING BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER A VISIT



BEFORE A VISIT

- Wash your hands if possible, or use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Only bring items necessary for the visit to the visit. Leave any bags in your vehicle.



DURING A VISIT

- If a home visit, allow the family to open and close doors, or use a barrier (tissue/paper towel) when touching doorknob.
- When possible, maintain the recommended 6ft social distance between people. Facial coverings must be worn if distancing cannot be maintained, during child transport, and any time a visit occurs indoors.
- Avoid placing belongings on tables, counters, floors or touching surfaces.



AFTER A VISIT

- Wash your hands if possible, or use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Items you should be cleaning and sanitizing regularly include: phone, pen, badge, keys or any additional supplies.

- If the medical recommendation is to restrict parenting time from occurring in person, please provide DCS – as the child’s legal guardian - with information for the following:
 - * The medical conditions that make a child high-risk
 - * Reasons for the restriction
 - * Duration of the recommended limitations, keeping in mind that COVID-19 has the potential to remain an issue for the next year or longer
 - * Date for re-evaluation of the recommendations
 - * Recommendations regarding the restriction of the child from leaving the house, interacting with other individuals who are not residing in the home, receiving therapy in the home, going to daycare, going to school, and other activities
 - * Recommendations on precautions that can be taken to permit visitation.