

April 29, 2020

Dear In-Home Provider Partners,

We appreciate your continued partnership and support of children and families during these challenging times. Although there has been some easing of physical distancing requirements in the community, the requirements are not yet relaxed to a point that allows a full return to face-to-face parenting time and services. The Department has extended the virtual contact with children directive to May 15, 2020. All processes and protocols established over the past six weeks will remain in place to support this continued directive, including in-person services for families with children residing in-home with a safety plan and all families for at least 30 days following reunification.

At the expiration of this directive, DCS staff and In-Home contracted providers will resume visiting all children face-to-face in the homes of their parents and caregivers. It is critical that we return to seeing all children and parents face-to-face, to maintain child safety and provide family reunification services.

The Department has also extended the virtual visit directive to May 29, 2020, and will begin transitioning back to regular visitation practices one week prior to the expiration of the virtual visit directive.

Frequent communication with the provider community will continue so that you are fully informed and involved as planning occurs. In order to keep an open line of communication, the Friday phone calls will remain as is through May.

The Department appreciates your continued partnership and support.

Mike Faust
Director