

## HOME VISITING PROTOCOLS

The following guidance is based on the most current Department of Public Health guidance. The health and safety of children, family, and staff are of the utmost importance. *This guidance is not intended to address every potential scenario that may arise as this event evolves.*

- 1. Anyone planning an in-person home visit should contact families (by telephone, email, text) prior to the visit and ask about the following:**
  - a. Signs or symptoms of COVID 19
  - b. Potential contact with anyone confirmed positive or under investigation for COVID-19, or ill with a respiratory illness.
  - c. The immune status/risk of household members; those who have a weakened immune system, over the age of 60 years, have chronic health conditions (e.g. heart disease, lung disease, diabetes), or other COVID-19 risk factors.

*\*See Brief Questionnaire below*
- 2. Nothing is to be taken into homes, except essential items like keys, phone, and wallet.**
  - a. It is recommended that these items are stored in a small case/bag/container that can be wiped down.
  - b. Do not take in toys, mats, blankets, etc.
- 3. Minimize contact with frequently touched surfaces in the home.**
  - a. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds upon entering the home (if possible) and after exiting.
  - b. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer.
  - c. Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth, especially on the visit.
- 4. Change “contaminated” clothing and wipe down shoes between home visits.**
  - a. All employees must wear clean “scrubs” (tops/bottoms) on a HV. If you had physical contact with a client, please change between visits.
  - b. Wash hands/use sanitizer after changing.
- 5. Masks must be worn on home visits and social-distancing (6’) maintained.**
  - a. ALL adults present at visit must wear their masks even during outside visits.
  - b. Non-vaccinated Home Visitors should consider double masking.
  - c. Mask wearing should be attempted with children 2 years old and older.
  - d. Individuals with health risks are not required to wear a mask.

- e. Maintain a 6' distance between yourself and clients during visits. Consider logical barriers when working with young children, such as fences, gates, tables, etc.
- 6. Temperature scans should be performed on all adults and children in home before entering home.**
- c. Use non-touch thermometers.
  - d. Visit must be cancelled if anyone has a temperature above 100.4.
  - e. Visit may be cancelled if anyone refuses to have their temperature taken.
- 7. A few health questions must be re-asked prior to entering home/classroom:**
- a. Is anyone in the home currently sick?
    - i. *Home visitor has discretion to assess risk of any "yes" answers. For example – if child has had an ear infection, it is OK to visit.*
  - f. Does or has anyone had a fever?
  - g. Has anyone unusual visited the home in the past 24 hours?
    - i. If so, what is their health profile/status?
- 8. Daily schedules must be kept up-to-date.**
- 9. All potential exposures must be reported immediately to supervisors.**

**\*Brief questionnaire prior to all in-person visits, done 24-48 hours before visit.**

*Be sure to ask about all household members:*

1) Is anyone in your household experiencing any of the following symptoms:

- Fever or chills
- Headache
- Cough
- New loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Congestion or runny nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Nausea or vomiting
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

2) Has anyone in your household had contact with anyone who has known or possible exposure to the COVID-19 in the last 14 days?

3) Is anyone in your household on home quarantine or isolation due to possible contact with someone with possible or confirmed COVID-19 or due to travel?

4) Please tell me about the immune status/risk of household members; those who have a weakened immune system, over the age of 60 years, have chronic health conditions (e.g. heart disease, lung disease, diabetes), or other COVID-19 risk factors.

***If you become aware of a confirmed or presumptively positive case, please notify your supervisor. Anyone who answers “yes” to the screening questions should be urged to consult with their health care provider immediately.***