

 <p><b>Children's Services Agency</b></p> <p><b>Communication Issuance</b></p> <p><b>20-093</b></p> <p><b>REVISED 8/17/20</b></p> <p><b>Prior version obsolete</b></p>	Subject/Title	COVID-19 Response: Resumption of In-Person Visits and Outings for Youth in Child Caring Institutions (CCIs)
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**Prior versions of this communication are obsolete.**

This updated communication provides direction for the resumption of in-person visits and off-campus visits and outings for children residing in Child Caring Institutions (CCIs). For many children, these visits are necessary to enable them to step down to a less restrictive placement setting. These visits also create a sense of normalcy for youth, strengthen important relationships in their lives, improve well-being, and promote permanency.

Governor Whitmer's [Executive Order 20-156](#) (or subsequent applicable Executive Order) continues temporary restrictions on entry of individuals into health care facilities, residential care facilities, congregate care facilities, and juvenile justice facilities through **August 31**, 2020. Exempt from these restrictions are parents, foster parents, prospective adoptive parents, and guardians of youth under the age of 21 who are under the care of the facility, and staff performing official government functions (i.e., caseworkers). The Executive Order also empowers the Director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to implement alternate provisions to this Order; current detailed provisions regarding allowance of visitor entry into CCIs, and release of residents from CCIs, can be found in the MDHHS Director's [Emergency Order Under MCL 333.2253 – Exceptions to temporary restrictions on entry into congregate care and juvenile justice facilities](#). The Order should be reviewed in detail, as CCIs are required to adhere to its provisions. MDHHS encourages CCIs to review and modify plans as needed if the health conditions within the community and within the CCI change/worsen.

**On-site and Off-site Visits for Youth in CCIs**

Effective immediately, CCIs and caseworkers should work cooperatively to schedule and convene regular in-person visits at the CCI and off-site supervised, unsupervised and overnight visits with the child's parents, foster parents, prospective adoptive parents, guardians, and caseworkers, and off-site, regular recreational

outings unless conditions in the attached Executive Order are not met. Community outings must occur in the same geographic region as the facility (see graphic below for regions). These visits must occur consistent with the child's treatment plan and permanency goals and the MDHHS Director's attached Executive Order, Section 1, a-o. CCIs should develop procedures outlining health and safety precautions that will occur before, during, and after such visits.

### Alternate Visitation

If in-person or off-site visitation is not possible for individuals due to health evaluation results, the CCI must facilitate visitation using video technology when feasible, or phone if video is not possible.

### Additional Procedures

Facilities may establish additional precautions and procedures for visitor entry; visitors should inquire about these precautions prior to their visit and should also be notified by the facility or caseworker about the necessary precautions when scheduling the visit.

Child welfare, juvenile justice, CPS, and licensing staff may access facilities when necessary to conduct casework activities in accordance with **program policy and** their local agency plan. The staff person should contact the facility *in advance* of their visit and should not enter until the appropriate health evaluation criteria is met.

Please refer to Communication Issuance 20-076, *Entries and Placements*, regarding appropriate quarantine or isolation of individuals exposed to or confirmed positive for COVID-19.

### Resources

The resources below may assist in planning and implementation of in-person and off campus visits and outings. Please see the attached checklist for additional guidance when planning visits.

- [Transportation Safety Guidelines](#)
- [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#)
- [Mask Wearing 101: How to Properly Use & Re-use a Mask](#)
- [Prevent Getting Sick](#)
- [MI Safe Start: A Plan to Re-Engage Michigan's Economy](#)
- [Michigan Coronavirus Resources Webpage](#)

