

 <p><b>Children's Services Agency</b></p> <p><b>Communication Issuance</b></p> <p><b>20-084</b></p>	Subject/Title	COVID-19 Response: Central Office and Local Office Family Preservation and Foster Care Supportive Visitation (FCSV) Providers Face to Face Contacts with Families
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Distribution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSA Central Office Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MDHHS BSC and County Directors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MDHHS Juvenile Justice Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MDHHS Child Welfare Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Tribes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Workforce Development and Training <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Agency Child Welfare Managers/Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residential Abuse/Neglect Managers/Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residential Juvenile Justice Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Family Preservation/FCSV Providers	

***This CI replaces all prior versions of CI 20-041, CI 20-044 and CI 20-050.***

The following provides updated guidance for Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) contracted central office and local office Family Preservation and Foster Care Supportive Visitation (FCSV) providers regarding resumption of in person contacts with children and families.

The Governor's June 1, 2020, [Executive Order 2020-110](#) lifted many previous restrictions for travel and business operations and allows for resumption of retail shopping, small gatherings and medical and dental appointments. To align with the gradual resumption of business operations and social activities, MDHHS is planning for gradual resumption of critical child welfare activities, including family preservation, reunification, and support services.

Family preservation in-home and group-based parenting education providers and FCSV providers should begin now to develop plans to gradually resume all in person contact/activities with families with full implementation of all in person contact/activities by June 30, 2020. Providers should consult with their local MDHHS and child placing agencies to understand their plans and align as applicable. Plans should identify strategies to promote safety for all participants and prevent community spread.

When scheduling in-person services with a family, providers must ensure the following:

1. **Staff and household members are healthy** – All visit participants and members of their respective households are not displaying symptoms of COVID-19, have fully recovered from any illness, including COVID-19, and have not had recent known exposure to anyone with COVID-19.

2. **Screenings completed with “no” responses** – Ensure the screening questions below are asked of all involved participants/case members and inquired of for each participant’s household members prior to in person contact and before entering a home:
  - a. Is there any reason you have been instructed to self-quarantine or isolate? If yes, why?
  - b. Have you had contact with any Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) for COVID-19 within the last 14 days, or with anyone with confirmed COVID-19?
  - c. Do you have any symptoms of a respiratory infection? (e.g., cough, sore throat, fever, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, new loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea)?
3. **In-person contact is safe for all participants** – If an individual is at high risk due to age, compromised immune system, or other risk factor, they may request that in person contact not occur. Caseworkers should honor this request and discuss with their supervisor alternative ways to resume visits as quickly as possible.
4. **All participants have face coverings to use indoors and outdoors if medically able to do so** – Children 2 years of age or older should be encouraged to wear a cloth face covering when they are within 6 feet of their parents to the extent that it does not lead them to touch their face more frequently or cause them to feel scared.
5. **Social distancing (6 feet) can be maintained among those who are not a direct part of the visit. Social distancing is not required among the parent, child and siblings.**
6. **Visits should include as few people as possible.**
7. **Visits in local offices are not preferable**; however, if this must occur, ensure all community toys/table activities are cleared from the room. Parents, caregivers, foster parents should be invited to bring their own freshly sanitized toys/activities for use during the visit and take with them following the visit with instruction to sanitize upon return home. Toys that cannot be easily sanitized should not be allowed.

The following are provided for your consideration in developing plans.

### Planning Visits, Group-based Education and Mitigating Risks

- Conduct visits outdoors whenever possible.
- If visits occur indoors, open windows if feasible.
- For outdoor visits, having ready access to hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol will provide additional protection if used after touching frequently-used surfaces and before accidentally rubbing one’s eye or nose. These items are not widely available and are therefore not able to be distributed by MDHHS/agency staff to individuals for purposes of participating in a visit.
- Limit exposure to unsanitized surfaces and large groups of people when determining where the visit will take place.
- Individuals from different households who may be present at the visits should maintain social distancing (6 feet).
- Ensure all individuals involved in the visit or group session have thoroughly washed/sanitized their hands prior to starting the visit or group session and following the visit or group session.
- Advise individuals involved to cover their mouth with a tissue when sneezing/coughing or do so into their elbow.
- All individuals shall wear a cloth face covering (i.e. a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief) during the visit or group session, and children 2 years of age or older should be encouraged to wear a cloth face covering when they are within 6 feet of the family preservation

worker, to the extent that it does not lead them to touch their face more frequently or cause them to feel scared.

- All participating individuals should be advised to change and wash clothes upon return home.
- Group based parent education classes should be offered in a space that allows for social distancing.
- Prior to entering a group session, ask screening questions to ensure individuals participating are healthy.
- If a participant answers “yes” to any of the screening questions, the parent should be offered an alternate method to participate.
- Follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sanitizing guidelines in spaces where classes are held.

If in person contact cannot occur based on COVID-19 related health concerns, providers may use alternative methods to engage with parents and children, including phone, Skype, FaceTime, or other available technology. All COVID-19 related missed visits should be documented in the weekly report to the referring worker and should not be counted against the parent as missed visits.

## Resources

Staff should regularly check <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> for updated information from CDC and <http://michigan.gov/coronavirus> for updates from MDHHS. Additionally, the following resources may be helpful:

- Cleaning and Disinfecting  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/clean-disinfect/index.html>
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)  
[https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178\\_98156---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_98156---,00.html)
- Mask Wearing 101: How to Properly Use & Re-use a Mask  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwPWdkbyizw>
- Prevent Getting Sick  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/index.html>
- High Risk Populations  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk-old.html>
- MI Safe Start: A Plan to Re-Engage Michigan’s Economy  
[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/whitmer/MI\\_SAFE\\_START\\_PLAN\\_689875\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/whitmer/MI_SAFE_START_PLAN_689875_7.pdf)
- Michigan Communication Webpage  
[https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178\\_98281---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_98281---,00.html)
- CDC Guidance Businesses and Workplace  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html>