

 <p>Children's Services Agency</p> <p>Communication Issuance</p> <p>20-077</p>	Subject/Title	Agency Plans for Resuming Parenting Time and Sibling Visits
	Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Informational Memorandum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Program Instruction <input type="checkbox"/> Policy Guide
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<i>Distribution</i>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residential Abuse/Neglect Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residential Juvenile Justice Managers/Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

[Executive Order 2020-96](#) lifts many of the restrictions associated with the prior Stay Home, Stay Safe order. As businesses open and social activities resume, it is also important to resume in-person family time to the extent possible. We also recognize that conditions, resources and case circumstances are unique across the state. Rather than creating a one size fits all approach, we are asking each private agency and local Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) office to develop their own plans to safely facilitate these visits. By Thursday, May 28, 2020, each private agency and MDHHS county office is being asked to submit a plan for resuming in-person parenting time and sibling visits. Caseworkers should begin utilizing the agency's plan to assess each of their cases to determine if and how visits can safely resume.

At minimum, plans must include consideration of:

- Participant safety.
- Staff safety.
- Plan for utilization of COVID-19 screening questions.
- Possible locations.
- Plan for sanitizing visit spaces.
- Transportation guidance.
- Supervision.
- Snacks/activities.
- Face coverings.
- Educating foster parents and birth parents.

Plans for private agencies should be submitted to the applicable Child Welfare Support Specialist (CWSS) analyst; local county office plans should be submitted to the applicable Business Service Center (BSC) director.

Please consider the following previously released guidance as you develop your plans:

Guidance for Planning In-Person Parenting Time and Sibling Visits

- Conduct visits outdoors whenever possible.
- If visits occur indoors, open windows if feasible.
- Visits should include as few people as possible.
- If the visit must occur indoors, ensure visiting space is thoroughly cleaned/sanitized prior to and following the visit.
- 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 and 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.
- Advise participants that they may bring their own gloves and/or sanitizer to the visit if they have them available. 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 or 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). Social distancing between the parents and their children or among siblings is not expected during visits.
- Ensure all individuals involved in the visit have thoroughly washed/sanitized their hands prior to starting the visit and following the visit.
- Advise individuals involved to cover their mouth with a tissue when sneezing/coughing or do so into their elbow.
- Participants should wear a cloth face covering/mask during the visit. 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.
- All participating individuals should be advised to change and wash clothes upon return home.