



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ROBERT GORDON
DIRECTOR

April 28, 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope that you are doing well and staying safe. I'm writing to update you on a new Executive Order issued on April 24, 2020 by Governor Whitmer. I want to start by reiterating that I recognize how difficult this time is for you and your family, and I want you to know that your child's safety, health, and well-being are our number one concern and priority. It is my strong belief that you, as a parent, are the most important person in your child's life and should be included in all decisions that impact your child and your family, especially while we continue to face challenges related to COVID-19.

On April 24, 2020, Governor Whitmer issued [Executive Order 2020-59](#), which is in effect until May 15, 2020. The order extends stay home, stay safe requirements, but lifts some of the previous restrictions that were in place. In compliance with the order, and considering other public health information and advice, MDHHS has modified guidance for parent-child visitation.

Virtual visitation currently remains the safest option for contact between you and your child. However, supervised and unsupervised in-person parenting time may now occur if the visits are consistent with the court order, case plan and all the following guidelines:

1. **Healthy Households** – No one in your household or your child's current household has COVID-19, had COVID-19 within the past 3 weeks, or has symptoms of COVID-19. It is critical that in-person visits not occur if known concerns are present that will compromise the health and safety of anyone involved, including household members who are immunocompromised or have other pre-existing conditions that place them at higher risk.
2. **Screening Completed with "no" Responses** – The following questions will be asked of you and everyone at the visit, as well as all of their household members.
 - Is there any reason you have been instructed to self-quarantine or isolate? If yes, why?
 - 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?
 - Do you have any symptoms of a respiratory infection (e.g., cough, sore throat, fever, or shortness of breath)?
3. **Consultation and Agreement** – You, your worker, and the child's caregiver will discuss and agree to the visitation plan. If concerns exist that cannot be overcome, and cannot be resolved by county/agency leadership, your caseworker may elevate concerns to me for a decision on how to proceed.

If visits are able to occur based on the criteria above, please follow the recommendations below during visits:

- Visits should occur outdoors whenever possible.
- If visits occur indoors, windows should be open, if possible.
- You should bring gloves, a mask or face covering, and/or sanitizer to the visit, if you have them available.
 - Parents should wear a mask or face covering during the visit and children 2 years of age or older should be encouraged to wear a 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.
- Limit exposure to unsanitized surfaces and large groups of people when determining where a visit will take place.
- Individuals from different households who may be present during visits should maintain social distancing (6 feet). Social distancing between you and your child is not expected.
- Everyone at the visit should thoroughly wash/sanitize their hands prior to and following the visit.
- Everyone should avoid handshakes and touching their face.
- Everyone should cover their mouth with a tissue when sneezing/coughing or do so into their elbow.
- Everyone is advised to change and wash their clothes when they return home.

Thank you for your patience as we work through this very challenging time. It is important that you receive accurate information about what is happening and remain involved in the care and support of your child as much as possible. We will continue to work together to ensure the safety and well-being of your child.

Please join us for our next town hall on **April 30, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.**, which will allow for more interaction to address your questions. To participate in the meeting, click the following link on April 30 at 6:00 p.m.: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#). If you are unable to join online, you may call in at (248) 509-0316 and use the conference ID 564-665-174#.

Sincerely,



JooYeun Chang, Executive Director
Children's Services Agency