

OCW Guidance for COVID-19

COVID-19: Methods for 30-Day Visits for Children, Youth, Young Adults Placed In-State Care

Beginning March 23, 2020, CBCs should conduct a risk assessment of current cases to prioritize in-state home visits to foster homes, group homes, extended foster care, and other settings to determine cases that can be safely assessed using a type of video conferencing or telephonic interviews to conduct face-to-face visits to meet the current 30-day visit requirement. Additionally, where there are concerns for the contraction of COVID-19 from the caregiver, child, or parent, and/or the case manager, the department authorizes alternative means to conduct in-person face-to-face visits to meet the current 30-day visit requirement. This guidance applies to contacts with children, parents, caregivers, youth in EFC, other populations requiring a 30-day visits. Outlined below is the recommended procedures for making the best determination in order to ensure safety of children:

1. Case Management should review caseloads to prioritize those with safety concerns to determine best response plan for individual case managers (i.e. those under intense safety management; those being served in home non judicial/judicial; etc.). The following should be considered:
 - a. Type of Danger Threat Identified
 - b. Age of Child(ren)
 - c. Type of placement and supervision
 - d. Access to informal safety supports such as kin and friendly visitors
 - e. Individual Needs of the Child(ren) and Family
2. Determine those families that need an in-person face-to-face visit and refer to the Home Visiting Procedures.
3. Determine those children/families that can receive a face-to-face contact utilizing alternative methods such as face time, skype, and other tele communications.
4. Document in FSFN the face-to-face contact, citing which type was utilized.
5. If a child/family is diagnosed with COVID-19, displaying symptoms or under quarantine, utilize alternative methods to document contact in FSFN. Case Managers need to communicate to their management when children/families being served are identified with symptoms/quarantined and/or diagnosed with the virus

Following the Agency for Healthcare Administration's decision to suspend visitation to medical facilities, OCW is **temporarily suspending** the requirement of in-person face-to-face visits to all **medical foster homes, skilled nursing homes**, or for children whose **immune system is compromised**. Case management should utilize a type of video conferencing between the child and caseworker to serve as a monthly caseworker contact.

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Please disseminate this memorandum to DCF Regional Contract Managers, Interstate Compact Coordinators, and all child welfare professionals with the Community Based Care Lead Agency who will be completing tasks associated with home visits.

CONTACT INFORMATION: If you have any questions or need clarification regarding this guidance, please contact Vanessa Snoddy, Case Management & Well Being Manager at Vanessa.Snoddy@myflfamilies.com or 850-717-4769.

Temporary Suspension of Out of State Visits in Residential Facilities

OCW is **temporarily suspending** the requirement of in-person face-to-face visits with children placed **out of state** for cases to which the Interstate Compact request for 30-day visits was declined or is not applicable to ICPC regulation. A form of video teleconferencing shall be used to complete the face-to-face contact with the child.

Please disseminate this memorandum to DCF Regional Contract Managers, Interstate Compact Coordinators, and all child welfare professionals with the Community Based Care Lead Agency who will be completing tasks associated with home visits.

CONTACT INFORMATION: If you have any questions or need clarification regarding this guidance, please contact Vanessa Snoddy, Case Management & Well Being Manager at Vanessa.Snoddy@myflfamilies.com or 850-717-4412