



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES  
 Department for Community Based Services  
 Division of Protection and Permanency**

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**Prevention Contract Correspondence Transmittal, 20-01**

<b>PCCT Number: 20-01</b>	<b>Date of Issue: 8/18/20</b>
<b>Issuance: Division of Protection and Permanency, Christa Bell, Director</b> <i>CBell</i>	
<b>Key Words/Phrases: COVID-19, home visits</b>	
<b>Attachments/Forms:</b>	

In response to the evolving situation regarding COVID-19, please be advised of the following guidance concerning home visits and gatherings:

1. Providers may consider completing face-to-face visits to enhance the assessment or assurance of safety by completing drive-by or outside visits. Providers should, at a minimum, utilize the following safety precautions:
  - a. Wearing a mask or other appropriate face coverings at all times;
  - b. Practicing social distancing by staying a minimum of 6ft of distance away from others at all times;
  - c. Screening prior to visit to determine if any household members are experiencing symptoms, have had recent exposure to COVID-19, or have tested positive;
  - d. Following all other DPH (Department of Public Health) recommended activities; and
  - e. Staying informed of new information regarding the virus and revising agency plans as needed.
2. Providers are recommended to utilize activities during this public health emergency including but not restricted to:
  - a. Dropping off tangible items needed (i.e. food, hygiene, household, etc.) to families in need;
  - b. Using flex funds for the purchase of masks or phones for families;
  - c. Assisting the family in getting access to internet services;
  - d. Providing information on COVID testing for families; or

- e. Providing creative activities for families to engage in during quarantine, such as board games, card games, exercise/wellness activities, and family oriented movies for movie nights.
3. Providers are **not** required to provide in-person visits at this time and may continue to use HIPAA compliant remote platforms at their discretion, such as phone calls, Skype, Zoom, or other similar platforms. Telehealth continues to be permissible for therapeutic services, as applicable.
    - a. Services delivered via the above platforms should be in the same programmatic prescribed frequency;
    - b. All children present should be spoken to privately during electronic visits; and
    - c. All electronic visits should include the viewing and spanning of the entire home, including the viewing of any known risk factors, if via platform other than phone alone.
    - d. In the event of a safety threat or high-risk situation, arising during a virtual session the provider is to contact DCBS immediately, make a new referral via the child abuse hotline, and contact the necessary authorities. The need for face-to-face contact in these situations is to be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
  4. KSTEP will continue with the use of altered drug screening schedules and drug screen procedures. Drug screening is only to be utilized for cases with safety issues present. Drug screening requirements for KSTEP phases should continue to cease. Drug screening issues regarding specific families should be discussed during the weekly updates or by contacting the DCBS worker by phone, when urgent. KSTEP leadership is available for consultation as needed.
  5. Program Specialists are available to consult any cases as needed.

For the latest information on COVID-19 in Kentucky, please visit [www.kycovid19.ky.gov](http://www.kycovid19.ky.gov).

We appreciate your hard work during this difficult time and attention to this matter.

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