



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

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**Prevention Contract Correspondence Transmittal, 21-01**

<b>PCCT Number: 21-01</b>	<b>Date of Issue: 6/8/21</b>
<b>Issuance: Division of Protection and Permanency, Mary Carpenter, Director</b> <i>MC</i>	
<b>Key Words/Phrases: COVID-19, face-to-face service provision</b>	
<b>Attachments/Forms:</b>	

The purpose of this Prevention Contract Correspondence Transmittal is to provide updated guidance to prevention providers regarding face-to-face service provision. As the infection rate continues to decline, updated guidance is being issued in alignment with the most recent guidance from the Governor's Office and the Department for Public Health. All guidance included in this information memorandum will be **effective beginning Monday, June 14, 2021**, and will remain in effect until further update.

Prevention providers should begin preparing to return to in-person services on June 14, 2021. In-home visits should return to the programmatically prescribed frequency on this date. The COVID-19 Screening Tool, <https://manuals.sp.chfs.ky.gov/Resources/Related Resources Library/COVID-19ScreeningTool5-2020.docx>, should be utilized prior to home visits to determine if any household members are experiencing symptoms, have had recent exposure to COVID-19, or have tested positive. If DCBS clients answer 'yes' to any questions on the screening tool, consultation should occur at the provider level to determine if contact should occur through other means. If it is determined contact should occur through other means, prevention providers should notify the family's DCBS worker, so they may also assess for appropriateness of the prevention service occurring remotely with regard to the ensurance of child safety. Prevention Branch Program Specialists are also available for consultation. Telehealth continues to be permissible for therapeutic services, as applicable or if family members are experiencing symptoms, had a recent exposure or have tested positive. Telehealth services should continue to occur through HIPAA compliant remote platforms. Telehealth services should not occur in the absence of programmatically prescribed in-home visits, unless they are occurring due to family members experiencing symptoms, having a recent exposure or having tested positive. Telehealth services should continue to include the assessment for any safety risks to the family, including speaking with children

privately, viewing the home, and viewing known risk factors during electronic visits. 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.

Providers for the KSTEP program should also prepare to return to programmatic requirements for drug screening schedules and procedures. Drug screening requirements for KSTEP phases should resume on June 14, 2021. Provider transportation of KSTEP clients to complete drug screening should include use of the COVID-19 Screening Tool, [https://manuals.sp.chfs.ky.gov/Resources/Related Resources Library/COVID-19ScreeningTool5-2020.docx](https://manuals.sp.chfs.ky.gov/Resources/Related%20Resources%20Library/COVID-19ScreeningTool5-2020.docx). If DCBS clients answer 'yes' to any questions on the screening tool, consultation should occur at the provider level to determine if transportation and programmatic drug screening requirements should be waived. If it is determined drug screening requirements must be waived, prevention providers should notify the family's DCBS worker, immediately when there are imminent safety risks, so they may also assess for child safety in the absence of drug screening. Drug screening issues regarding specific families should also be discussed during the weekly updates or by contacting the DCBS worker by phone, when urgent. KSTEP leadership is available for consultation as needed.

Upon face-to-face contact with family members, providers should continue to follow all guidelines issued regarding facial coverings, social distancing, health checks, temperature checks, handwashing and disinfection, etc., including all information found at:

- <https://governor.ky.gov/covid19>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html>
- <https://kycovid19.ky.gov/>
- <https://govstatus.egov.com/ky-healthy-at-work>

The adjustment to telecommuting was challenging but DCBS was able to make this shift and continue providing services to families and children through partnership with our provider community. It is important to recognize that Kentucky is still under a state of emergency but heading in the right direction. It is important to note that vaccination is proven to be safe and effective and reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. Therefore, all are encouraged to take that step in obtaining the COVID-19 vaccine. However, not everyone will be vaccinated and that is their choice. The CDC website, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/about-covid-19.html>, has helpful information and guidelines whether you are not vaccinated or have received the vaccine. Let's acknowledge how hard this past year has been, be respectful of one another, and continue serving our state safely. Should an issue arise that is not addressed through this guidance, consultation should occur with Program Specialist on the Prevention Branch.

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