



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

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The intent of this correspondence is to provide guidance for private child caring (PCC) and private child placing (PCP) agencies due to the ending of the State of Emergency. Kentucky’s state of emergency ended March 22, 2022, with the passage of Senate Joint Resolution 150. Although Kentucky’s state of emergency has been lifted, the national emergency declaration remains in place. The current federal state of emergency has been extended through April 14, 2022, and guidance indicates that a sixty (60) day notice will be provided to states when the national emergency declaration will be terminated

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services has waivers in place for foster/adoptive fingerprint checks and flexibilities in face-to-face caseworker visits under the national emergency declaration. These items will remain as outlined in previous guidance until the federal emergency declaration is terminated and/or subsequent guidance is issued related to these practices.

Required visits may continue to be provided utilizing videoconferencing platforms. As indicated in previous guidance, there is no blanket prohibition against face-to-face service provision by PCP providers, PCC providers, or DCBS staff. A face-to-face visit may be important to continue to promote stability and progress in treatment.

Therapy may continue to be provided via telehealth until further guidance is provided by the Department of Medicaid Services.

Visitation between parents and their children is critical to ensure bonding, develop or maintain healthy relationships, and has been proven to positively correlate with timely reunification. It is imperative that face-to-face visits occur. Visitation should be occurring in-person unless a health risk has been determined after consultation with the DCBS worker. If it is determined that an in-person visit cannot be completed, then a videoconferencing platform may be used. Screening tools are no longer required.

Foster and adoptive parent pre-service and ongoing training may continue utilizing videoconferencing platforms or may return to in-person trainings. All training will continue to be given credit as face-to-face if it is delivered in a format that allows interaction with the trainer and between participants.

Additional information may be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://kycovid19.ky.gov/>

<https://govstatus.egov.com/ky-covid-testing>

If you have further questions, please contact Holly Davis at hollyc.davis@ky.gov or Sherry Postlewaite at Sherry.Postlewaite@ky.gov.

Please forward this communication to relevant agency staff.