

In-office Parent/Child Visitation - DHS Staff



SCREENING DHS staff must contact the parent and caregiver to screen for exposure to COVID-19 the day prior to the scheduled face-to-face visit:

- a. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms or combinations of symptoms may have COVID-19: Cough, Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- b. Or *at least two* of these symptoms:
Fever, Chills, Repeated shaking with chills, Muscle pain, Headache, Sore Throat, Recent loss of taste or smell

Rescheduled visits due to reports of symptoms require a pause in in-person visits for 72 hrs. without fever and 10 days since the first symptoms occurred. Virtual visits should continue.



SCHEDULING

If scheduled in a DHS visit room, all visits should be scheduled at a time when the family can have their own visit room and that social distancing from other visiting families can be observed (6 feet of space between individual families). There will be at least ten minutes between visits to sanitize the rooms. Please let parents know to arrive 15 before the scheduled visit and to let staff know they have arrived. Schedule time for cleaning between visits.



TRANSPORT

DHS staff, foster parents who assist with transportation, and parents should maintain social distancing. DHS will not transport children from multiple households at the same time in the same car. Staff must wear face coverings while transporting.



ARRIVAL

If a parent does not have a phone, DHS staff will check the parking lot at the expected time of arrival. If a parent has a phone, they will send a text message to the DHS staff and wait in their car in the parking lot. Upon receiving a text message from or seeing a parent, DHS staff will verify there are no changes to the symptom's checklist (above). One person will escort the parent(s) and child(ren) to the visit room. DHS lobbies will remain open solely for essential business. Ensure no bags or extra items are brought into the building other than what is needed for the visit.



SUPPLIES

DHS will provide facial coverings (if needed), diapers and wipes for infants and toddlers, disposable cups or water during visits and a small, pre-packaged snack for children who can feed themselves for in-office visits.



CLEANING/PPE:

All DHS staff must wash their hands between each contact/visit and wear a face covering when cleaning visit rooms and interacting with children, parents, and foster parents.



CLOSING:

DHS staff will observe the overall visit experience and check back in with the family and foster parents to confirm if the visit was successful and ask about what might make it more successful.