

*Guidance is rapidly changing as the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds.
Please check back regularly for the latest information.*

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Case Management Providers, KVC, Cornerstones of Care, TFI and Saint Francis Ministries have each developed and submitted plans for continuous operations. These are being updated frequently as the situation with COVID-19 evolves and changes.
- In support of our relative caregivers, foster homes and residential providers, DCF is working with our Care Giver Association (WSU) to keep them informed of all updates. DCF has been in direct communication with our CPAs and Case Management Providers (CPAs) so they are keeping informed on DCF actions and directives.
- Guidance for workers who do home visits can be found here at the following link. DCF and our community partners are following directions provided here:
http://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/toolkit/Guidance_for_Workers_Who_Go_Into_Homes.pdf
- KPRC, DCF practitioners, and child welfare case management providers are utilizing the following questions to assess the public health needs as well as the health and well-being of children and families.
 1. Has anyone in the home traveled within the last 14 days to/from a state or country identified as a hot spot?
 2. Has anyone in the home been exposed to an individual diagnosed with COVID-19?
 3. Is anyone in the home showing signs of illness including:
 - a fever greater than 100 degrees;
 - cough; and/or
 - shortness of breath.

If a family responds “yes” to any of the questions above, and it is determined that face to face contact is needed, DCF team members and our Case Management Providers have PPE to utilize for personal and public safety.

CONTACT GUIDANCE

Children & Families — Family interactions (child-parent visits) support reintegration goals and can decrease the stress and anxiety of family separation during this unprecedented time. Parent-child interactions will continue but may be altered to virtual or through telecommunication for safety and prevention of the spread of the virus. Guidance for:

- *Children & youth who are currently in group care* – visits will occur virtually and/or by phone, frequency may be increased;
- *Children who are currently on a home visits* – if safety is not a concern, extension of the visit may be considered, and CMPs will provide any additional supports needed by the family;
- *Children who have overnight visits planned* may not experience interruptions as DCF is encouraging the consideration of extending these visits where possible;

Supervised or monitored visits will be held virtually (via video or phone calls), and frequency may be increased.

Workers & Children — When a child is placed in out-of-home care, workers are required to see them face to face monthly. To prevent the spread and exposure to COVID-19, face to face worker-child visits will be limited to only those that cannot be conducted virtually (by phone or video) and in instances where there are safety concerns. Contact may happen more frequently than monthly throughout this period of social distancing and “stay at home” restrictions.

OTHER GUIDANCE

Placement with relatives — Essential DCF licensing staff will continue to process name-based background checks to expedite placement with relatives and kin and requests for exceptions to licensed foster home capacity.

Support for teens and older youth — The Independent Living Program has essential staff available to help young persons impacted by dorm closures and/or loss of employment due to COVID-19. DCF and Case Management Providers have provided contact information of essential staff to youth.

Essential staff have been able to provide guidance and resource and referral support, alongside direct procurement of necessities to ensure young persons are getting their needs met and positioned to best cope with the pandemic.

Laptops have been provided for young persons in need of them for their secondary education continuous learning plans and post-secondary education classes that have shifted to long distance learning mediums.