

Combined In-Home Services Guidance to Providers During COVID-19 (Effective 9/3/2021)

Thank you for your continued dedication to supporting children, youth, and families during the COVID-19 pandemic. We know these have been challenging times for everyone. Given increasing COVID-19 disease activity across the state due to the Delta variant,¹ our goal remains promoting safety by reducing opportunities to transmit the virus as we provide Combined In-Home Services (CIHS). At the same time, it is vitally important that children, youth, and families have access to quality services to support their safety, permanency, and wellbeing.

We will review this guidance every 90 days and provide 30 days' notice of any revisions.

Guidance for Provision of CIHS:

We agree with our providers that, *to the extent safely possible*, CIHS should continue as in-person services, with flexibility to pivot to telehealth format for any isolation/quarantine period required by a family's exposure or infection. To that end, the following guidance applies:

- (1) Call the parent the day prior to a scheduled appointment to confirm the appointment and to ask COVID-19 screening questions (see screening questions in section below titled *COVID-19 Risk Screening Prior to In-Person Service Delivery*).
- (2) On the day of service, contact the parent and ask the COVID-19 screening questions again.
- (3) If the parent provides positive ("yes") answers to any COVID-19 screening question at any time:
 - a. Offer to change the appointment from in-person to remote.
 - b. If a remote appointment is not an option, cancel the appointment and reschedule.
 - c. Contact the caseworker immediately (within 1 business day) to inform them of the change in modality and/or cancellation of the appointment.
- (4) Resume in-person services in accordance with Department of Health (DOH) isolation/quarantine guidelines:
 - a. Where there is confirmed or suspected COVID-19 and symptoms are present, end home isolation when:
 - i. It's been at least 24 hours with no fever without using fever-reducing medication AND
 - ii. Symptoms have improved AND
 - iii. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
 - b. Where there is a positive test result for COVID-19, but no symptoms, end home isolation when:
 - i. At least 10 days have passed since the date of the first positive COVID-19 test AND
 - ii. There is no subsequent illness.
- (5) For all in-person contacts, adhere to current mask guidance.
 - a. While the WA [DOH mask order](#) has been amended to eliminate the requirement to wear a mask when outdoors or when attending sporting events, **masks are still required in specific settings, even when fully vaccinated**. These settings include: child care

¹ For more information about current COVID statistics, please visit <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/covid-19-risk-assessment-dashboard>.

facilities, camps, K-12 schools and other youth settings where children are present or expected to be present. In consultation with DOH, Family Time and CIHS fall in the “other youth settings” category. As a result:

- i. Masks or social distancing are not required for outdoor visits.
- ii. Masks are still required when transporting children.
- iii. Masks are still required for indoor visits.

(6) If the therapist does not pass the health screening prior to the in-person session, the following actions need to be taken:

- a. Temporarily divert to telehealth service delivery AND notify the Social Service Specialist and Regional Lead in writing within 24 hours
- b. If there are safety threats or high risks with the family, seek another therapist within the agency to temporarily cover the in-person session(s) until the primary therapist can resume in-person service delivery.
 - i. If the provider agency does not have another therapist to temporarily cover the case, notify the Social Service Specialist and Regional Lead that this has occurred and that the therapist is temporarily switching to telehealth until in-person can resume.
 - ii. The Regional Lead may follow up with questions on the case and make a recommendation to transfer the case to another agency. The decision will be made based on the needs of the case, focusing on child safety and risks.

(7) Vaccine Mandate

- a. For providers with approved exemptions, the guidance above remains the same. Please note that the vaccine requirement at DCYF facilities does not allow for exemptions.

COVID-19 Risk Screening Prior to In-Person Service Delivery

Both the day before and the day of planned in-person service provision, providers should call the parent to confirm the visit and ask COVID-19 screening questions. Ask if anyone in the home is experiencing any of the following symptoms, per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and DOH Screening Guidelines, that cannot be attributed to another health condition:

(1) Do you, the child or anyone in the home have any of the following symptoms within the last day that are not caused by another condition?

- a. Fever (100.4 F) or chills
- b. Cough
- c. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- d. Unusual fatigue
- e. Muscle or body aches
- f. Headache
- g. Recent loss of taste or smell
- h. Sore throat
- i. Congestion or runny nose
- j. Nausea or vomiting
- k. Diarrhea

- I. There are other signs of being sick. Signs may include flushed cheeks, tiredness, and in the case of infants and toddlers, extreme fussiness.
- (2) Have you, the child or anyone in the home been in close contact with anyone with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
- (3) Have you, the child or anyone in the home had a positive COVID-19 test result for active virus in the past 10 days?
- (4) Within the past 14 days, has a public health or medical professional told you, the child or anyone else in the home to self-monitor, self-isolate, or self-quarantine because of concerns about COVID-19 infection?

If the response is yes to any of the questions above, follow the guidance outlined above in the section titled *Guidance for Provision of CIHS*.

Questions

Communication during this time is essential. It is critical that service providers remain in close communication with the family, assigned caseworker and supervisor for any challenges or successes.

For questions, contact Delton Hauck, Prevention and Intervention Services Manager, at delton.hauck@dcyf.wa.gov

We will continue to provide support to you during this time. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

Additional Resources

Washington State Coronavirus Response (COVID-19)

- [COVID-19 risk assessment dashboard](#)
- <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/>

Washington State Department of Health (DOH):

- <https://www.doh.wa.gov/emergencies/COVID19>
- <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/ResourcesandRecommendations>
- https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/Secretary_of_Health_Order_20-03_Statewide_Face_Coverings.pdf

Washington State Governor's office

- [Healthy Washington Roadmap to Recovery](#)

Washington State Department of Labor & Industries (L&I)

- <https://www.lni.wa.gov/safety-health/safety-topics/topics/coronavirus#industry-and-topic-specific-resources>