

DCYF Home Visiting Programs

Our work with children, youth, and families has been greatly challenged by the impact of COVID-19 and undoubtedly our work with families will look different for the time to come. On June 29, 2021, Gov. Inslee announced the [Reopening](#) of Washington State. This is great news for our state and a testament to the commitment and perseverance you have demonstrated over the last 16 months. Thank you for your ongoing partnership and dedication throughout this journey as it has taken so many unexpected turns along the way. We share the joy and, yes, weariness too, as we try to envision the months to come and are finding the images are not yet fully crystalized. This guidance provides an update of the [April 26, 2021 guidance on Returning to In-Person Services](#), specifically about physical distancing and facial coverings. As a reminder, in advance of delivery of in-person services, LIAs should establish policies and procedures that address at least the topic areas outlined below. These policies and procedures should be established by Sept. 30, 2021.

Reopening Guidance:

- **Vaccine Verification/Negative Testing:** Recommended but not required for large indoor and outdoor events
- **Capacity Limitations:** No restrictions in restaurants, bars, stores, businesses, theaters, etc. (except large indoor events)
- **Physical Distancing:** No requirements
- **Facial Coverings:** Recommended at this time but not required for **vaccinated** individuals, unless required by individual business.
- **Travelers:** Follow [CDC recommendations](#)

The Secretary of Health's mask order has been amended to say that no one is required to wear a mask when outdoors or when attending sporting events. However, for those people who are unvaccinated, the potential to contract or spread the virus is still prevalent, so people who are unvaccinated are strongly encouraged to wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings and social events.

There are still settings in which all people, including those who are fully vaccinated, will be required to wear masks, such as:

- Child care facilities, camps, K-12 schools, and other youth settings where children are present or expected to be present; **DCYF Home Visiting Programs are considered a part of the Secretary of Health's guidance**
 - Note: This requirement is for other DCYF providers including Family Time, Combined In-Home, and Early Supports for Infants and Toddlers providers
- Health care settings, in accordance with CDC health care infection prevention and control recommendations
- Correctional facilities in areas where incarcerated individuals are present or expected to be present
- Homeless shelters in areas where individuals being served are present or expected to be present
- Public transportation and transportation hubs, including airports, bus or ferry terminals, train and subway stations



Masking helps protect those who are unvaccinated, including children who are not yet eligible to be vaccinated and others with auto-immune or other conditions that prevent them from being vaccinated. Parents should be reminded that there is real risk to children until vaccinations are available. Children who are not vaccinated still need to wear masks, though children younger than 2 years old should never wear one due to a risk of suffocation.

Requirements for places of employment issued by the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries have been updated [here](#).

DCYF considers the Home Visiting programs to be in line with the Secretary of Health's mask order guidance and the following is based on that premise.

- **PPE:** All Home Visiting programs staff should wear a mask and participants should be encouraged to wear masks as well
- **PPE – Facial Coverings:** Masks are required for in-person visits occurring indoors involving children (under age 12) or other unvaccinated individuals
- **PPE and Physical Distancing:** Masks or physical distancing are not required for outdoor visits or outdoor social connections. Programs may encourage home visitors and participants at outdoor group connections to wear masks if they expect crowded conditions
- **Risk Assessment:** Programs should continue the COVID-19 screening calls in advance of visits. This call may also be used to inform home visiting participants about DOH and CDC recommendations for face coverings will help with expectations for the visit

In-Person Visit Policy/Procedure Categories:

1. **Equity Impact:** No change
2. **Vaccination:** No change
3. **Communication Plans with Families and Consent to In-person Services:** No change
4. **Risk Assessment:** No change
5. **Physical Distancing:** ***UPDATE*** Physical distancing is no longer required for outdoor visits or outdoor group connections and while still recommended for indoor, in-person visits it may not be feasible
6. **Personal Protective Equipment:** ***UPDATE*** Masks are no longer required for outdoor visits or outdoor group connections. Facial coverings still required for in-person, indoor visits
7. **Sanitation and Materials:** No change
8. **Documentation for Contact Tracing:** No change
9. **Flexibility of Contract Expectations and Caseloads:** No change

Guidance for Reinstating In-Person Visits: Outline of the Governor’s Roadmap to Recovery and Reinstating Home Visiting Services

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phases 4 and Beyond: Reopened WA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual and remote services • <i>(In-person visits ceased)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual and remote services • Outdoor in-person visits may resume, weather and safety permitting • Resumption of in-person visits recommended only for home visitors fully vaccinated and 14 days after final vaccination with family consent to in-person visits. <i>See item 3 below for additional info.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual and remote services • Outdoor in-person visits may resume, weather and safety permitting • In-person visits with necessary sanitation and distancing precautions and family consent recommended only for home visitors fully vaccinated and 14 days after final vaccination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual and remote services • In-person visits with facial coverings when family consents, recommended only for home visitors fully vaccinated and 14 days after final vaccination

Please note: throughout the document, “in-person” and “face-to-face” have been exchanged with in-person for consistency. In-person refers to visits in homes, public places (indoor or outdoor), or office visits.

Questions?

If you have questions about this guidance, please email dcyf.homevisiting@dcyf.wa.gov.