

DCF COVID-19 Daily Update

MARCH 18, 2020

DCF COVID-19: PROTECTING STAFF WHO PROTECT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

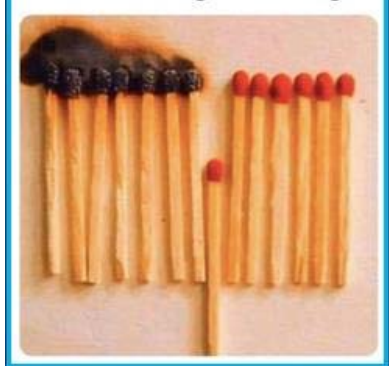
The Commissioner has issued guidance protecting our staff whose duties entail visiting homes of families at risk for carrying coronavirus

For DCF staff whose job involves visiting families at home - including visits to foster homes -- they are to assess in advance via phone call whether the visit will risk exposure to the coronavirus. The assessment consists of three questions or factors (see below) to be used to determine if the visit needs to be reconsidered to ensure staff safety.

If **any** of the three factors are present in the household, staff are to consult with their supervisor to determine if there are any urgent safety risks or behavioral health needs requiring a response.

If there are urgent risks or needs, the area office chain of command should assess **whether they can be met remotely** via phone or digital means. If a face-to-face visit is required, the family is to be instructed to **get assessed by a medical professional before visitation arrangements are made**. If the area office is unable to resolve the issue, the office is to contact Central Office through the Bureau Chief of Child Welfare.

Social distancing in one image.



If there are no urgent risks or needs OR those needs can be met remotely, instruct the family to stay home and contact 211 for guidance. If the family reports having symptoms, instruct the family to stay home and contact their medical professional immediately.

Please document in LINK the decision not to conduct a visit due to it posing a risk of any kind. Do not put yourself in jeopardy.

The Three Screening Questions:

1. Do you or anyone in your household have symptoms of coronavirus, specifically sore throat, fever of 100.4 degrees or higher or shortness of breath?
2. Have you had contact with a person who is positive for coronavirus?
3. Have you travelled to a country the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has identified as a Level 3 nation where widespread ongoing transmission is occurring? See detail below.

The Center for Disease Control has identified these countries that have a [Level 3 Travel Health Notice](#) (widespread, ongoing transmission):

4. China
5. Iran
6. South Korea
7. Europe (Schengen Area): Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Monaco, San Marino, Vatican City
8. United Kingdom and Ireland: England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM CORONAVIRUS

KNOW HOW IT SPREADS

- There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus.
- **The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.**
- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.
 - **Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).**
 - **Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.**
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.



TAKE STEPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF

Clean your hands often

- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.



Avoid close contact

- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick
- Put **distance between yourself and other people**. This is especially important for [people who are at higher risk of getting very sick](#).

TAKE STEPS TO PROTECT OTHERS

Stay home if you're sick

- **Stay home** if you are sick, except to get medical care. Learn [what to do if you are sick](#).

Cover coughs and sneezes

- **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- **Throw used tissues** in the trash.
- Immediately **wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



Source: CDC https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fabout%2Fprevention.html