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Director

Michael L. Parson
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Genetics and Healthy Childhood (GHC) Home Visiting Program Contracted Local
Implementing Agency Home Visiting Program Staff

FROM: D. Adam Crumbliss, Director *DAC*
Division of Community and Public Health (DCPH)

RE: COVID-19 Early Childhood Home Visiting Guidance – Phased in resumption of
face-to-face visitation

DATE: May 1, 2020

On March 17, 2020, a memorandum advising of changes to early childhood home visits due to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak was shared. That memorandum urged all GHC Home Visiting Program contracted home visiting agencies to continue to support home visiting participants by following the alternative practice of tele-visits as outlined by the evidence-based home visiting model implemented by each agency.

On May 4, 2020, Governor Parson will lift the statewide “Stay Home Missouri” order. The purpose of this memorandum is to outline guidance for GHC Home Visiting Program contracted home visiting agencies to begin to consider a phasing back in of face-to-face visitation, granted that there are no continuing municipal or county stay at home or shelter in place orders for areas the contracted home visiting agencies serve. Please adhere to all local guidance that may continue to be in place for those areas.

Governor Parson’s lifting of the “Stay Home Missouri” order does not lift the need for recommended social distancing measures such as maintenance of six (6) feet between individuals as well as maintaining good hand hygiene and performing routine cleaning and disinfection. Individuals may also want to consider wearing cloth face masks when in a public setting where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), especially in areas of significant community-based transmission. For more guidance regarding face masks, please visit <https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/pdf/face-covering-guidance.pdf>.

The GHC Home Visiting Program urges contracted home visiting agencies to follow guidance from their respective evidence-based home visiting model for resumption of face-to-face visitation. Once a contracted home visiting agency allows home visitors to resume face-to-face visitation, please take the following precautions prior to EVERY face-to-face visit:

- When possible, call the person prior to the visit. If unable to reach the person by phone, then prior to a face-to-face visit, from a minimum distance of six (6) feet, ask the following safety questions:
 - How are you and/or anyone in your household currently feeling?
 - Have you or anyone in your household had signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as a fever, cough, sore throat, or shortness of breath?

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- Have you and/or anyone in your household had contact within the last 14 days with anyone with or under investigation for COVID-19, or ill with respiratory illness?
 - Do you and/or anyone in your household have an immune status such as those who have a weakened immune system, over the age of 60 years, have chronic health conditions (e.g. heart disease, lung disease, diabetes), or other COVID-19 risk factors?
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>
- If the response is yes to any of the questions above, then the home visitor should reconsider the face-to-face visit and proceed with an alternative mode for the visit (i.e. telephone and/or video communication). If none of the indicators are positive for the above, and a decision is made that going into the home is within the best interest of the family, then home visitors and staff should continue to take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These precautions include:
 - Perform an assessment of home visitor symptoms of infection prior to entering the home to reduce the risk of transmitting infection to a family.
 - Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before entering the home and after exiting. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
 - Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet between the home visitor and family members during a visit, and if possible, the home visit can take place outside.
 - Minimize contacting frequently-touched surfaces at the home and avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth.
 - Cloth face coverings can be used to prevent asymptomatic spread of the disease and provide protection when social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
 - If any person is found to be ill within the home, the home visitor should exit the home immediately and notify their supervisor.
 - In any instance in which a home visitor finds that a participant indicates they and/or anyone in their household are ill and/or concerned for possible COVID-19 exposure or infection, please encourage the participant to contact their primary care provider, or the Department's 24-hour COVID-19 hotline operated by medical professionals at **877-435-8411**.

For more COVID-19 information, please visit the DHSS COVID-19 website at www.health.mo.gov/coronavirus/.

Questions regarding this memorandum should be directed to the GHC Home Visiting Program staff at **573-751-6266/800-877-6246** or via email:

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