

WORKER SAFETY DURING HOME VISITS

Precautionary principle: any novel virus may be transmitted by contact, droplet, and airborne methods. These types of viruses may be transmitted within 6 feet by coughing, sneezing, laughing, and talking.

Enhancing Client Safety

- Recognize clients may be worried, scared, confused and are often alone
- Emphasize the need to stay home
- If health care service is needed, call first for instructions
- Call 911 if one experiences any difficulty in breathing
- If available within the community, call 311 as a helpful alternative
- Emphasize the need to be physically isolated but not socially or emotionally
 - Recommend options to stay connected with others when not sharing the same space

Home visit Screening

- Call PRIOR TO VISIT to assess for the following:
 - Have you or someone else been exposed?
 - Have you had close contact with a person with confirmed COVID 19 illness
 - Have you or someone else had symptoms in the last 14 days?
 - Fever, Cough, and Shortness of Breath (SOB)
- When you arrive at the client's door, assess again (or the first time if not able to make phone contact)
 - Assess the previous 2 questions for the client and anyone in the home or accompanying them on the visit if at a different setting
 - Remain a distance of 6 feet when screening
 - If no one at the home is ill, proceed with the visit
- If positive for exposure and/or symptoms
 - CANCEL visit and make a plan for follow up
 - Encourage the client to call their Primary Care Provider (PCP) for further assessment
 - If client has no PCP, provide information on locations to receive care
 - Inform them: DO NOT GO TO URGENT CARE OR ER until instructed to
 - Notify your supervisor

Tips for Home Visit

- If possible, set up a video interview or interview by phone while client is viewed through a window or interview from the front door entrance without entering the home
- Bring only items necessary for visit to the home
- Avoid placing belongings on tabletops and counters unless disinfected before setting down
- Store personal items securely in your vehicle prior to arriving at the location
- Greet family verbally, avoid physical contact such as handshakes.
- If possible, maintain the recommended 6 feet distance from others
 - Avoid doorknobs, have family members open door or use a barrier such as a paper towel or napkin

FOLLOW YOUR AGENCY'S POLICY REGARDING WHEN TO WEAR FACE MASKS

Putting on the Mask

1. Wash your hands with soap & water for at least 20 seconds. Dry your hands with a clean paper towel & immediately dispose of the paper towel.	2. Check the mask for any defects such as a tear or missing tie or ear loop. Dispose of all that are defective.
3. Ensure that the exterior (usually yellow or blue) side of the mask is facing out, away from your face.	4. Place the mask on your face with the blue side facing out and the stiff, bendable edge at the top, over your nose.

5. Once the mask is in place, use your index finger & thumb to pinch the bendable top edge of the mask around the bridge of your nose	6. If the mask has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ear loops, put one loop around each ear. ○ ties, pick up the mask by the ties and tie the upper ties behind your head with a bow. lower tie, then once the mask is fitted to the bridge of your nose, tie the lower ties behind your head with a bow.
7. Ensure that the mask is completely secure. Ensure that it covers your nose and mouth so that the bottom edge is under your chin.	8. Wash your hands.

Removing the Mask

- Wash your hands before removing the mask.
- Do not touch the inside of the mask (the part over nose and mouth). It may be contaminated from your breathing, coughing or sneezing.
- Untie or remove the ear loops and remove the mask by the straps.
- Dispose of the mask in a garbage receptacle.
 - If reuse of the mask is necessary, store your mask in a paper bag, not plastic
 - Mark paper bag as “Front”
 - Place the outside of the mask (side of mask away from mouth) into the paper bag facing the side marked “Front” on the bag

Cleaning and Sanitizing During and between visits

- Wash hands at arrival, at departure, and as needed
- Use supplies brought in your toolkit
- Use hand sanitizer
- Clean and Sanitize the following items between home visits and/or as needed
 - Cell phone
 - Name badge
 - Clipboard
 - Pen (dedicated to home visits only)
 - Any additional supplies

<p>Sanitary Tool Kit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ziploc bag that holds materials • Hand soap • Paper towels (Fold several into the bag, do not take the entire roll inside) • Hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) • Disinfectant wipes • Paper bags
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Keeping Your Vehicle Virus Free

- Wipe your materials with disinfectant prior to entering the vehicle
- Disinfect the door handle after each visit
- Utilize a barrier where you are placing your supplies
 - For example: Place garbage bag on the vehicle floor that will be discarded daily
- Use an EPA Approved Disinfectant or a mixture of 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water

Keeping your loved ones safe

To be prudent until more scientific evidence is known ...

- Wear washable clothing
- Remove clothing in garage or in foyer
- Place clothes in a laundry basket with a liner, a garbage bag, or directly into washing machine
 - Utilize the highest possible water temperature
- Shower immediately
- Limit contact with others within your household until the above steps are completed