

# A Guide to Providing In-Home Visiting Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic



## Considerations for Offering In-Home Visiting Services

- Would a telehealth visit meet this particular need, or is an in-home visit necessary?
- What is the current level of COVID-19 transmission within the community being serviced?
- What level of risk exists by offering in-home visiting services? Assess the risk to you, the participant, and other household members.

## Before Conducting an In-Home Visit

### Review and Refresh Your Knowledge:

- Review CDC's information on [infection prevention and control practices](#) and [standard and transmission-based precautions](#) regarding COVID-19.
- Review and practice [proper hand hygiene](#).
- Learn how to [properly use](#) personal protective equipment (PPE), if applicable.

### Identify Risk:

- Identify your own risk of becoming infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 and your risk of severe illness, if infected.
- Identify the risk of transmitting COVID-19 to participants and any family members, as well as their risk of severe illness.

### Prescreen:

- Has there been consultation regarding the risk versus benefit of an in-person visit?
- Is there enough space to allow for safe physical distancing (6 feet) during the visit?  
If not, is there an alternate safe place for the visit, such as an open space to meet outside or visiting in separate cars parked in a safe space?
- Did you screen for a history of illness within the household, before scheduling the in-home visit?  
Are there children or adults with special needs or chronic health conditions living in the home?
- Did you screen for illness or symptoms of COVID-19 with the participant and other household members, the day of the in-home visit?
- Do all family members over 2 years old have access to face coverings to wear during visit?  
Does your program have resources to provide face coverings to those who need it?



## Cancel a home visit if you or anyone in the home:

- Is displaying symptoms
- Has tested positive for COVID-19
- Has been exposed to someone who has tested positive within the past 14 days
- Is awaiting test results

## Safely Conducting an In-Home Visit

### Prevent COVID-19 Spread:

After reviewing risks and determining that an in-home visit is needed, follow these precautions:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol before entering the home.
- Perform daily temperature and symptoms checks, especially prior to entering the home. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, shortness of breath, muscle or body aches, new loss of taste or smell.
- Screen participants before or immediately upon arrival. Ask the participants about possible exposures, presence of signs or symptoms in the participant or household members, recent travel, and recent visitors.
- Only bring in necessary supplies, equipment, and materials.
- Limit contact with the participant and other family members, when not providing direct care.



- Wear a mask or cloth face covering, and other necessary PPE.
- Minimize contact with high-touch surfaces.

## After Conducting an In-Home Visit

### Clean and Disinfect:

- All supplies, equipment, and materials brought into, used, or removed from the home must be cleaned and disinfected.
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

### Dispose and Preserve PPE:

- Remove PPE outside of the home. Preserve any PPE, if possible, and dispose of any that is soiled or damaged.

**If you are an individual (e.g., social worker) who provides services in the home setting, implementing these strategies can help you, your participants, and their household members stay safe while making in-home visits during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

## Additional Resources

- [Planning for In-Person Services](#)
- [Protecting Yourself During a Home Visit](#)
- [Recipients of Home and Community Based Services](#)

