Home Visits and Contact Guidance in Response to COVID-19 for ID&R and Advocate Migrant Services

The following guidance is based on the most current Kansas Department of Public Health guidance. The health and safety of migrant children, family, staff and administrators are of the utmost importance. This guidance is not intended to address every potential scenario that may arise as this event evolves. Keep open lines of communication at all levels daily within your supervisors. Open communication decreases anxiety for us as well as families. It is important that our staff maintain constant communication with one another.

Home visits and in-person contacts with families are an essential aspect of providing services designed to ensure the education of migrant children and families

NOTICE

If you have a fever of 100.4 or above, or an emerging cough, you must stay home, contact your supervisor and contact your healthcare provider. Inform your healthcare provider that you are working with vulnerable individuals. Please indicate you work for the Migrant Education Program at the Kansas Department of Education, request a COVID-19 test and report this information to your supervisor. If you are denied a test, report this information to your supervisor.

KS-MEP is committed to protecting and ensuring the health and safety of the migrant children and youth, the family, and caregivers who support them, and the workers who serve them.

In-person contacts during provision of Services resume June 25, 2020. Face masks are always recommended to be worn with in-person contacts If you need to drive somewhere with a participant or others in the car, consider having riders ride in back and open the windows.

MITIGATION PRACTICES MUST BEGIN FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN FAMILY INTERACTION, HOME VISITS AND OTHER PRACTICES REQUIRING IN-PERSON CONTACT WITH FAMILIES

1. Implement common-sense practices for preventing disease spread, such as covering a cough, staying home when sick, and washing hands. The CDC recommends washing hands for at least 20 seconds.

2. Wearing a face mask/cloth covering is recommended.

3. Call in advance of conducting home visits or other in-person meetings (see screening questions below which should be discussed in advance).

4. During in-person meetings, do not sit within 6 feet of anyone in the home.

5. Avoid handling paperwork during the meeting.

6. Avoid touching your face or hair during the meeting.

7. Wash hands for at least 20 seconds with warm, soapy water or hand sanitizer before and after the meeting.

8. Check your temperature at least twice a day, when you start your Labor Day and when you finish the day.

Workers should also answer the screening questions for themselves prior making a home or in person visit. If any of the answers are ‘yes,’ workers should contact their primary care provider, follow the primary care provider’s direction and not conduct any home visits until cleared by their primary care provider to do so. Workers must also notify their supervisor of the above.

CONTAINMENT DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

When preparing or scheduling appointments for face-to-face visits, be sure to ask all adult subjects and household members the following questions:

**COVID-19 SYMPTOMS**

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| --- | --- |
| **Fever or chills** | **Headache** |
| **Cough** | **New loss of taste or smell** |
| **Diarrhea** | **Sore Throat** |
| **Fatigue** | **Congestion or Runny Nose** |
| **Muscle or Body aches** | **Nausea or Vomiting** |
| **Shortness od breath or difficulty breathing** |  |
| **Have you had contact with anyone who has known or possible exposure to the COVID-19 in the last 14 days?** |
| **Have you or anyone in the household recently discharged from a hospitalization due to****confirmed COVID-19 or due to travel?** |
| **Are you on home quarantine or isolation due to possible contact with someone with possible or confirmed COVID-19 or due to travel?** |

If received a positive answer on any of the questions, MEP Employee should not visit the family and contact should be made only by phone or videoconference when possible.

MEP employee should provide active support for the family to report the situation and consult with their health care provider and/or public health office as appropriate to follow relevant guidance which includes but is not limited to:

* Direct the household member to contact their local public health department or health care practitioner for guidance.
* Advise the household member to stay home, except to get medical care and to separate himself/ herself from other people and animals.
* Direct the household member to avoid sharing personal household items and to clean high touch surfaces every day.
* As appropriate, suggest other household members stay in another room or be separated from that household member as much as possible.
* Suggest that the household member limits to the minimum, non-essential visitors in the home.
* Document pre-visit screening information in appropriate systems.

In-person contact, and visitation should resume once the symptoms of illness are clear.

If no pre-screening by phone call is made in advance of a home visit, workers should conduct the screening questions outside of the family home within a safe distance from one another.

If parents/caregivers answer “no” during pre-screening for the above questions, then proceed with home or in-person visit. When possible meet the family on the open area such as backyard, porch or driveway always within a safe distance from one another.

Outreaching community, or participating at Events or meetings with large groups (more than 7), we have the following expectations:

* Face masks are always recommended to be worn.
* Check that room, o area is clean with the table/chairs and other equipment wiped down with disinfectant wipes before and after the meeting.
* The room should be equipped with hand sanitizer, if not the worker should have one for him all the time.
* No one should sit within 6 feet from one another in the room.

FAMILY INTERACTIONS

Frequent interactions with families are the strongest indicator of provision of services of quality. Continued meaningful family interaction supports these goals and decreases the stress and anxiety of family during this unprecedented time of students out of the classroom.

During this transition, In-Person Family interactions should be reduced to necessary. Mitigating risk of transmission during the meeting includes asking the pre-screening health questions regarding the presence of a cough and fever or known coronavirus exposure. Parents and children should be encouraged to use hand sanitizer before, during, and after the interaction.

GENERAL RESOURCES

The situation related to COVID-19 is changing rapidly. Visit the websites below for up-to-date

information:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

KS Department of Health and Environment Coronavirus Response

https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/

The information outlined in this document is further subject to change due to the rapidly evolving situation related to COVID-19. This guidance remains in place until further notice.

If you become aware of a confirmed or presumptively positive case, please notify the MEP referring worker, your supervisor, and Tracie Kalic and/or Alejandro Cabero.