

Date: July 2, 2020

To: All Recipients of Healthy Homes Coalition Home Visiting Services
All Healthy Homes Coalition Employees

From: Paul Haan, Executive Director

Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response – Home Visiting Practices

This memo is being written to support and guide Healthy Homes Coalition staff and families as we respond to the improving conditions with the COVID-19 pandemic, and to provide guidance for safe home visiting activities.

The Healthy Homes Coalition is not only concerned about how housing conditions help or hurt children's health and prospects in life. We are also concerned with the impact of the coronavirus on our employees and the families we serve. To that end, I am directing Healthy Homes Coalition staff to adhere to the following practices and to encourage families served to do the same.

Employees and families electing to conduct a home visit shall comply with the following practices:

Healthy Homes Employees

- Staff is required to participate in daily State of Michigan COVID-19 pre-screening (<https://misymptomapp.state.mi.us/login>) on a daily basis before conducting any home visits.
- Staff visiting the home shall be limited to only those absolutely necessary.
- Staff shall sanitize their hands immediately before entering the home. Staff may elect to wear disposable gloves for the family's protection. Staff shall ensure all individuals involved in the visit are encouraged to thoroughly wash or sanitized their hands prior to starting the visit.
- Staff should wear a protective cloth mask or equivalent in the interest of the family being visited. Staff shall also request, but not require, that family members wear a mask while staff are in their presence. Staff shall provide masks.
- Staff shall disinfect their hands at the culmination of the visit, and shall encourage family to do so as well.
- Employees have the option to decline participation in home visiting out of concerns for their own safety. If an employee declines to participate in home visiting, that employee shall attempt to conduct appropriate replacement activities to achieve the goals of the declined visit, such as telephonic or video chat support.

Families

- A pre-visit consultation will be held telephonically prior to the home visit to discuss the Healthy Homes Coalition's practices regarding COVID-19 safety and personal protection equipment (PPE) to ensure that those being served are aware of expectations, the use of PPE and safe work practices by staff, and why these things are being instituted.

- The household being visited must complete a pre-screening questionnaire on the day of the visit and prior to staff entering the home. The pre-screening questionnaire can be found at the end of this document.
- Visits should include as few people as possible, including family members.
- If visits occur indoors, families are encouraged to open windows in advance if feasible.
- If the visit must occur indoors, families are encouraged to clean and/or disinfect the visiting space is prior to and following the visit.
- Advise individuals involved to cover their mouth with a tissue when sneezing/coughing or do so into their elbow.
- Children 2 years of age or older should be encouraged to wear a cloth face covering in the interest of safety. Children less than two years of age are exempt. Staff shall provide masks.
- Families served have the right to decline services at any time and will not be dismissed from services due as a result of declining home visiting services out of concerns related to COVID-19. If a family declines to participate in home visiting, that family shall be offered appropriate replacement activities to achieve the goals of the declined visit, such as telephonic or video chat support.

Staff and Family

- Home visits shall be conducted outdoors whenever possible.
- Physical distancing of six feet or more shall be maintained whenever possible, and extended contact should be avoided to the extent possible.
- Again, the staff is required to wear a mask, and family participants are strongly encouraged to wear masks as well. If needed, disposable masks will be provided to those family members over age-two that are involved in the visit.
- Staff and the family have the right to discontinue the home visit at any time if they determine the visit to further compromise public health and safety.

Pre-Screening Questionnaire

The Pre-Screening Questionnaire shall be similar to the State of Michigan questionnaire for employees and shall ask, at a minimum, the following questions:

How do you physically feel right now?

- Well
- Not Well (if not well, decline visit)

Do you, or anyone in your household, have any of these symptoms? Check all that apply (if two or more for any one person, or one of the asterisked items, decline visit)

- Feverish*
- Nausea or vomiting*

- Shortness of breath*
- Loss of taste or smell*
- Sore throat
- Chills
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Abdominal pain
- Runny nose
- Cough, newly developed or worsening

Have you, or anyone in your household, had a positive COVID-19 test?

- No
- Yes (if yes, decline visit)

Have you, or anyone in your household, come into contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 in the last two weeks?

- No
- Yes (if yes, decline visit)

If any employee or family witnesses an unsafe condition or work practices, that person shall report that condition or work practice to the Executive Director in writing by emailing paul@healthyhomescoalition.org. If you have any further questions or recommendations to improve family or worker safety, please send your question or comments to me in writing via email as well.