

COVID 19 CIHS Provider Guidance

Combined In-Home Services Guidance to Providers through COVID-19 (Effective 4/3/2023)

Thank you for your continued dedication to supporting children, youth, and families during the past few years while responding to COVID-19. Our goal remains promoting safety by reducing virus transmission opportunities while providing Combined In-Home Services (CIHS). Simultaneously, it is vital for children, youth, and families to have access to quality services to support their safety, permanency, and wellbeing.

Guidance for Masking:

Effective April 3, 2023, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) [ended](#) the [Secretary of Health Mask Order](#). DCYF supports the voluntary usage and personal choice to wear a mask in any work environment.

You may still be required to wear a mask in specific circumstances/ settings and follow ongoing requirements:

- DCYF, at any time, may require employees, contractors, and volunteers to wear a mask.
- Local health jurisdictions, health care facilities or providers, local or tribal governments, school districts, facilities and individual businesses may still choose to require masks. If you are in a setting where COVID-19 safety measures are in place, DOH recommends these safety measures to protect staff, employees, patients, students, yourself, and others.
- [DOH guidance documents](#) provide additional information on where masks are still required or recommended.
- Private businesses can choose to require masks, and visitors should respect the rules of the room. WAC 296-62-609 protects a worker's right to wear a mask during a public health emergency. In accordance with WAC 296-62-609, employers cannot prevent employees from wearing masks, respirators, or other personal protective devices or equipment except as narrowly permitted by law. This requirement will be in effect statewide for COVID-19 until May 11, 2023. After that date, employers should check with L&I to understand what requirements they must follow.
- According to Washington State Labor and Industries (L&I), employers remain obligated to follow L&I Requirements and Guidance for Preventing COVID-19. COVID-19 will remain a recognized respiratory hazard in the workplace that employers and supervisors must address by continuing to assess workers' exposure risks along with the need for precautions to prevent exposure, [Novel Coronavirus Outbreak \(COVID-19\) Resources \(wa.gov\)](#).

Guidance for Provision of CIHS:

To the extent safely possible, CIHS should continue as in-person services, with flexibility to pivot to telehealth format for any isolation/quarantine period required by a family's exposure or infection. The following guidance applies:

- (1) Call the parent the day prior to a scheduled appointment to confirm the appointment and to ask health screening questions (see screening questions in section below titled *Health Risk Screening Prior to In-Person Service Delivery*).
- (2) On the day of service, contact the parent and ask the health risk screening questions again.
- (3) If the parent provides positive ("yes") answers to any health risk screening question at any time:
 - a. Offer to change the appointment from in-person to remote.
 - b. If a remote appointment is not an option, cancel the appointment and reschedule.
 - c. Contact the caseworker immediately (within 1 business day) to inform them of the change in modality and/or cancellation of the appointment.

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- (4) Resume in-person services in accordance with Department of Health (DOH) isolation/quarantine guidelines:
 - a. Where there is confirmed or suspected COVID-19 and symptoms are present, end home isolation when:
 - i. It's been at least 24 hours with no fever without using fever-reducing medication AND
 - ii. Symptoms have improved AND
 - iii. At least 5 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
 - iv. If you continue to have a fever or your other symptoms have not improved after 5 days of isolation, wait to end your isolation until you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and your other symptoms have improved.
 - v. DOH recommends wearing a well-fitting mask around others at home and in public for 5 additional days (day 6 through day 10) after the end of a 5-day isolation period.¹¹
 - b. Where there is a positive test result for COVID-19, but no symptoms, end home isolation when:
 - i. At least 5 days have passed since the date of the first positive COVID-19 test AND
 - ii. There is no subsequent illness.
 - iii. DOH recommends wearing a well-fitting mask around others at home and in public for 5 additional days (day 6 through day 10) after the end of a 5-day isolation period.¹²
- (5) For all in-person contacts, adhere to current mask guidance.
- (6) If the service provider does not pass the health risk screening prior to the in-person session, the following steps need to be taken:
 - a. Seek another provider within the agency to temporarily cover the session(s)
 - b. If the provider agency does not have another service provider to temporarily cover the case, work with a CIHS Regional Program Manager on diverting the referral.
 - c. When no other options are available to provide in-person CIHS in the area, inform the referring caseworker and regional lead. The regional lead will work with the caseworker on assessing the needs of the case and exploring options. Regional lead approval is needed to proceed with telehealth when no other options are available.

Health Risk Screening Prior to In-Person Service Delivery

Both the day before and the day of planned in-person service provision, providers should call the parent to confirm the visit and ask health risk screening questions. Ask if anyone in the home is experiencing any of the following symptoms, that cannot be attributed to another health condition:

- (1) Have you, the child or anyone in the home been exposed to anyone who has had a confirmed contagious illness including but not limited to RSV, Influenza, or COVID-19 in the past 5 days?
- (2) Do you, the child or anyone in the home have any of the following symptoms within the last day that are not caused by another condition?
 - a. Fever (100.4 F) or chills
 - b. Cough
 - c. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - d. Unusual fatigue
 - e. Muscle or body aches
 - f. Headache
 - g. Recent loss of taste or smell

¹ <https://doh.wa.gov/emergencies/covid-19/isolation-and-quarantine-covid-19>

² <https://doh.wa.gov/emergencies/covid-19/isolation-and-quarantine-covid-19>

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- h. Sore throat
 - i. Congestion or runny nose
 - j. Nausea or vomiting
 - k. Diarrhea
 - l. There are other signs of being sick. Signs may include flushed cheeks, tiredness, and in the case of infants and toddlers, extreme fussiness.
- (3) Have you, the child or anyone in the home had a positive COVID-19 test result for active virus, or received a diagnosis of RSV or Influenza in the past 10 days?
- (4) Within the past 14 days, has a public health or medical professional told you, the child or anyone else in the home to self-monitor, self-isolate, or self-quarantine because of concerns about COVID-19 infection?

If the response is yes to any of the questions above, service providers should follow the above protocol for visits. Follow the guidance outlined above in the section titled *Guidance for Provision of CIHS*.

Questions

Communication continues to be essential between service provider, the family, assigned caseworker and supervisor for any challenges or successes.

For questions or additional support needs, contact Delton Hauck, Prevention and Intervention Services Manager, at delton.hauck@dcyf.wa.gov

Additional Resources

Washington State Coronavirus Response (COVID-19)

- [COVID-19 risk assessment dashboard](#)
- <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/>

Washington State Department of Health (DOH):

- <https://www.doh.wa.gov/emergencies/COVID19>
- <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/ResourcesandRecommendations>
- https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/Secretary_of_Health_Order_20-03_Statewide_Face_Coverings.pdf

Washington State Governor's office

- [Healthy Washington Roadmap to Recovery](#)

Washington State Department of Labor & Industries (L&I)

- <https://www.lni.wa.gov/safety-health/safety-topics/topics/coronavirus#industry-and-topic->

