Transitional Pandemic Requirements and Best Practices for a Certified In-Home Aide

*This document was updated to reflect rule changes effective August 9, 2020.*

In-home aides must follow all certification requirements in addition to the following exceptions and additions outlined in the transitional rules. Additionally, they must follow all guidelines set by the Governor of Ohio or the Director of the Ohio Department of Health.

This document summarizes the transitional rules, best practices, and any associated tips.

**Face Coverings:**

**Transitional Rule:**
- In-home aides shall wear a face covering while indoors, unless not medically appropriate.
- Face coverings, which include masks but exclude face shields, shall cover the in-home aide’s mouth and nose.

**Best Practices:**
- Best practice for Face Coverings can be found in the Transitional Pandemic Child Care Toolkit: [http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/CoronavirusAndChildcare/](http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/CoronavirusAndChildcare/)

**Tip:**
- Bring a clean labeled container to temporarily store your face covering when eating and drinking.

**Handwashing:**

**Transitional Rule:**
- In-home aide shall wash hands using soap and water or use hand sanitizer:
  - Upon arrival, after breaks, upon returning from outside, and prior to leaving for the day.
  - After toileting or assisting a child with toileting.
  - After each diaper change or pull-up change.
  - After contact with bodily fluids.
  - After cleaning up spills or objects contaminated with bodily fluids.
  - After cleaning or sanitizing or using any chemical products.
  - After handling pets, pet cages or other pet objects that have come in contact with the pet.
  - Before eating, serving or preparing food or bottles or feeding a child.
  - Before and after completing a medical procedure or administering medication.
  - When visibly soiled. (must use soap and water).
- Children in care shall wash hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer (if 24 months or older):
  - After toileting/diaper change.
  - After contact with bodily fluids.
  - After returning inside after outdoor play.
  - After handling pets, pet cages or other pet objects that have come in contact with the pet before moving onto another activity.
Before eating or assisting with food preparation.
- After water activities.
- When visibly soiled (must use soap and water).

**Best Practices:**
- Hand sanitizer should be kept out of children’s reach and its use should be supervised.

**Tips:**
- Teach the children a 20 second song to sing while they are washing their hands.
- Create a sanitation backpack that includes items such as cleaner, sanitizer, gloves, paper towels, and/or a small trash bag to take when you are caring for the children outside.
- Watch YouTube videos with the children about proper handwashing: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQn0z6xa8II&list=TLPQMTIwNTIwMjAye98QK66jBA&index=1

**Screening:**

**Transitional Rule:**
The in-home aide shall ensure children in care and residents of the home are assessed for the following COVID-19 symptoms prior to or as soon as the in-home aide arrives each day:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptom</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A temperature of 100° F or higher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cough</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shortness of breath</td>
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<tr>
<td>Difficulty breathing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
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The in-home aide shall be assessed for any of the symptoms listed above prior to going to the child’s home each day.

**Best Practices:**
- Incorporate social distancing while assessing for symptoms or use physical barriers to minimize exposure.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when assessing for symptoms.
- Consider also screening any visitors to the home for COVID-19 symptoms.
- Request that individuals not eat, drink, or have physical activity immediately prior to assessment for symptoms.
Tips:
- Communicate with the family about the new symptom assessment requirements. Work with the family to develop a process. Have them talk with their child prior to arrival about this new process.
- Talk with the children during the day about the new assessment process that will happen every day.

Exclusion:

Transitional Rule:
- In-home aides shall not provide care if the in-home aide, children in care, or resident has a temperature or 100°F or higher.
  - Care shall not resume until individual has been fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medication for at least 24 hours.
  - If the individual who had the fever has had known contact with someone confirmed or probable to have COVID-19, they must complete isolation or quarantine procedures for COVID-19 in coordination with the local health department prior to care resuming.
- In-home aides shall not provide care if the in-home aide, children in care, or resident has any additional symptom (other than a temperature of 100 °F or higher) listed above and the person has had known contact with someone confirmed or probable to have COVID-19.
  - Care may not resume until the person completes isolation or quarantine procedures for COVID-19 in coordination with the local health department.
- Above requirements also apply to anyone whose COVID-19 symptom is assessed after arrival.
- If an in-home aide or a child in the home tests positive for COVID-19 (including antibody tests), the in-home aide shall ensure the person completes isolation or quarantine procedures for COVID-19 in coordination with their local health department prior to care resuming.

Rule Reminder:
- If a child meets isolation requirements after the in-home aide’s arrival, they must be properly supervised (within sight or hearing) until parent/guardian returns to care for the child.

Best Practices:
- Request the parent/guardian take children’s and any residents’ temperatures prior to the in-home aide’s arrival and if it is 100°F or higher, the parent/guardian should call the in-home aide to cancel care before the in-home aide arrives at the home.
- Request the parent/guardian assess children and any residents’ for any of the other COVID-19 symptoms listed above prior to the in-home aide’s arrival and if an individual has any additional symptom (other than a temperature of 100 °F or higher) listed above and has had contact with someone confirmed or probable for COVID-19, the parent/guardian should call the in-home aide to cancel care before the in-home aide arrives at the home.
- When a child meets the COVID-19 temporary cessation of care criteria after arrival:
  - Isolate the child from other children in a separate room or space until parent/guardian returns.
  - In-home aide should wear a mask and wash hands frequently.

Tips:
- Review and test emergency contact numbers.
Communicate with the family about the isolation and discharge requirements and develop a plan to follow.

Notification:

Transitional Rule:
- If the in-home aide or child in the home tests positive for COVID-19 (including antibody tests), in-home aide shall:
  - Immediately notify ODJFS, and
  - Notify their local health department by the next day.

Best Practices:
- Work with the local health department to determine next steps.

Please find additional best practices and tips at: http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/CoronavirusAndChildcare/.