

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

** This document was updated to reflect rule changes effective December 11, 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 suggestions for face coverings can be found in:
[Facial Coverings for Transitional Pandemic Child Care.](#)

Tip:

- Bring a clean labeled container to temporarily store your face covering when eating and drinking.
- Ensure face coverings fit properly.
- Do not wear masks with exhalation valves or vents.

Handwashing:

Transitional Rule: *Updated to reflect rule changes effective December 11, 2020*

- 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 caring for someone who is sick.
 - After toileting or assisting a child with toileting.
 - After blowing their nose, sneezing, or coughing.
 - Before and 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 and after eating, serving or preparing food or bottles or feeding a child.
 - Before and after completing a medical procedure or administering medication.
 - Before and after touching their face or handling their mask.
 - 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 blowing their nose, coughing or sneezing.
 - After touching their face or handling their mask.
 - 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 and after 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.
- Wash hands carefully with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Wash hands after using a tissue.
- Wash hands after water activities.

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:** *Updated to reflect rule changes effective December 11, 2020*

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:

- Temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Chills
- New uncontrolled cough (for children with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- New onset severe headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

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. Encourage them talk with their child about this new process prior to the In-Home Aides arrival.
- Talk with the children during the day about the new assessment process that will happen every day.

Exclusion:**Transitional Rule:** *Updated to reflect rule changes effective December 11, 2020*

- In-home aides shall not provide care if the in-home aide, children in care, or resident has a temperature of 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 temperature of 100°F or above had known contact with someone confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 in the previous fourteen days, the in-home aide shall stop providing care until the person completes isolation or quarantine protocols for COVID-19 in coordination with the local health department or in compliance with the Ohio Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control guidelines.
- In-home aides shall not provide care if the in-home aide, children in care, or any resident has any of the symptoms listed above **and** the person has had known contact in the previous fourteen days with someone confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19.
 - Prior to care resuming, the individual must complete isolation or quarantine procedures for COVID-19 in coordination with the local health department or in compliance with the Ohio Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control guidelines.
- 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 prior to care resuming, the in-home aide shall ensure the person completes isolation or quarantine procedures for COVID-19 in coordination with their local health department or in compliance with ODH and CDC guidelines.

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. If an individual has any symptom listed above (including a temperature of 100°F and above) and has had contact with someone confirmed or suspected to have 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 is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms after arrival and care needs to temporarily stop:
 - 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.
- Quarantine keeps someone who might have been exposed to the virus away from others.
 - [Ohio Department of Health quarantine guidelines](#)
 - [Find your local health department](#)
 - [Centers for Disease Control quarantine guidelines](#)
- Isolation keeps someone who is infected with the virus away from others, even in their home.
 - [Centers for Disease Control isolation guidelines](#)
- Follow the **Ohio Department of Health** recommendations:
 - <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home>

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/>.