



## Department of Health

Mike DeWine, Governor  
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

Amy Acton, M.D., MPH, Director

March 11, 2020

Dear Home Visiting Providers:

On March 9, 2020, Governor Mike DeWine signed Executive Order 2020-01D declaring a state of emergency for Ohio in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Based on the guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the implementation of the Executive Order, the Ohio Department of Health is requiring that all face to face home visits must temporarily be suspended in order to protect the health and safety of the families being served and the staff of your agencies.

“Home visits” should be offered to families over the phone or in cases where appropriate and accessible, over video communication. The Ohio Department of Health has alerted the national home visiting models (Healthy Families America, Nurse Family Partnerships and Parents As Teachers) of this temporary operational change.

All non-face to face “home visits” will be reimbursable. Please utilize the Ohio Comprehensive Home Visiting Integrated Data System (OCHIDS) and document your activities and time in the progress notes. The type of contact should remain a “home visit” with the location being “other”. Please include “telephone” or “video” visit in the notes on the narrative tab. Any progress notes being submitted for telephone or video visits should not include travel time.

Please continue to support families that may be in crisis and need emergency items such as cribs and diapers. Follow the attached guidance for minimizing the risk of spreading any viruses. As a reminder:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; dry hands with a clean towel or air dry hands.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are unavailable.
- Cover your mouth with a tissue or sleeve when sneezing or coughing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.

Additional guidance will be provided when available. Should you have any questions, please contact your Home Visiting Consultant or me at [Alicia.Leaherman@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:Alicia.Leaherman@odh.ohio.gov) or via phone at 614-644-9243.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

Alicia Leatherman, Program Administrator  
Early Childhood Home Visiting Programs

246 North High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215 U.S.A.

614 | 466-3543  
[www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov)

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