

**Department for Children, Adults & Health**

**COVID-19 – Visiting guidance for frontline staff in Children’s Services**

**Accompanying Notes for Team Managers (ensuring appropriate use of PPE)**

Please refer to the guidance provided to staff for detailed advice about visits.



**Accompanying Notes for Managers**

The Government has issued infection prevention and control guidance for safe working in education childcare and children’s social care settings including the use of personal protective equipment.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings-including-the-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>

This encompasses home visits for social care staff undertaking face-to-face visits to**:**

1. households where someone has COVID-19, COVID-19 symptoms
2. households where someone has been asked to self-isolate as part of the test, track and trace rules.
3. households containing an extremely vulnerable individual i.e. previously shielded

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control>

In each of the situations outlined above, a risk assessment should be undertaken to determine if a face-to-face visit is essential and the outcome of this risk assessment recorded. If a face-to-face visit is essential to households in any of these circumstances then you should discuss with your service manager to agree that the visit must be undertaken.

If agreement is reached with your service manager that the face-to-face visit is to go ahead, please ensure that the team member has the appropriate PPE (single use gloves, apron and single use surgical IIR mask) available for their use before they attempt the visit. Eye protection should also be worn for visits to households where someone has COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms**.**

In addition, if the risk assessment indicates that social distancing for an essential visit is not possible (e.g. carrying a very young child to a car when moving to another placement or an Occupational Therapist needing to be physically close to a child/young person), PPE must be used.

The staff member should call ahead to the family to inform that such measures are being taken to try and minimise distress for the child.

If one of your team has been unable to contact a household ahead of a required visit, please ensure that the risk assessment considers the risks and mitigating steps that they should take if the visit is to go ahead. These steps will include but are not restricted to:

* knocking on the front door or ringing the doorbell and then stepping back to a distance of two metres in adherence to social distancing guidelines
* taking PPE as a precautionary measure

Getting hold of PPE

The new council-wide PPE ordering process was put in place from the beginning of August and so each service should now be:

* ordering the appropriate PPE for their staff in line with latest government guidance to ensure staff and service user safety; and
* making this available to staff as required.

Please ensure

1. the team member has the required PPE items prior to them undertaking a visit in line with the risk assessment.
2. the team member has looked at the poster and watched the video contained within the staff guidance about putting on / removing PPE and that they are comfortable with how they will do that.

Disposal of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

New personal protective equipment must be used for each visit where it is required. It is essential that used PPE is stored securely within disposable rubbish bags. These bags should be placed into another bag, tied securely and kept separate from other waste. This should be put aside for at least 72 hours before being put in the usual waste bin.

Eye protection is reusable but should be thoroughly cleaned after each use.

The latest national advice which we should all be following is available at the following links:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>