

**Schedule of Expectations for Family Time during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

This is a schedule of expectations in which you are required to follow in order for Family Time to take place safely and following Government Guidelines. The expectations have put in place which take into account the most recent Government Guidance. Following the Government providing any further guidance to the public, this schedule of expectation will be reviewed. If the Local Authority do not feel that you are able to follow these expectations, we may have to suspend Family Time.

* Social Distancing must remain in place during family time. This will mean that you must keep 2m from your child/ren and unfortunately at this current point of time you are not able to have physical contact e.g. give a hug; hold hands
* Family Time will have to take place in an outdoor space e.g. a public park. A risk assessment will have been completed and a place for family time to take place has been identified.
* At times it may be necessary for your child/ren’s foster carer to be present/remain nearby during the family time. This will decided following a risk assessment having been completed.
* The duration of the family time will have to be considered during the current Government Guidance as public toilets are not open. The Social Worker will have taken in to account travel time for your child/ren to come to the family time when looking at the duration of the family time.
* As family time will need to be outdoors , it may be that this could be affected by inclement weather, this will be reviewed on the day of family time and if the weather is bad family time may need to be postponed to another day
* If you are traveling on public transport to the family time, you must wear a face cover on public transport.
* You must continue to social distance and follow Government Guidance between family times. If the Local Authority have evidence that you are not following Government Guidance, this may result in Family Time with your child not being able to happen.
* Only those people who have been agreed to attend family time should be present. Any changes to the usual arrangements must be agreed by the Local Authority before and and form part of the risk assessment process.
* If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you **must** contact the Social Worker immediately. **You must then self-isolate for 14 days** as advised by the Government. Please refer to the NHS website for must up to do date symptoms
* Please do not bring drinks or food, for child at the family time. We recognise that this is a very difficult time, however the Local Authority needs to ensure we are reducing all chance in which COVID-19 can be passed on. If you are bringing toys/gifts etc, then this will need to be given to the carer in a bag and not directly to the child. The carer will then keep this in the bag for 3 days before giving it to the child
* If your child/ren become distressed as a result of struggling with social distancing or you contravene the expectation of social distancing and initiate physical contact the contact will be ended and a review of future contact will be undertaken.

The Local Authority appreciates that the restriction on family time in this extraordinary public health emergency have been and remain distressing and frustrating, but we ask that you continue to work with us in balancing the importance of children’s needs for family relationships and valuable family interactions against the Local Authority’s duty to safeguard the welfare and health of the child, parents, foster carers and employees. We will continue to promote family time as long as it is safe to do so.