

## SCATTERED-SITE SUPERVISED APARTMENT LIVING GUIDANCE IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

March 18, 2020

The following guidance is based on the most current Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) guidance. The health and safety of children, family, staff and administrators are of the utmost importance. This guidance is not intended to address every potential scenario that may arise as this event evolves.

### NOTICE

**If you have a fever of 100.4 or above, or an emerging cough, you must stay home, contact your supervisor, and contact your healthcare provider. Inform your healthcare provider that you are essential workforce working with vulnerable individuals. Please indicate you work for the Department of Human Services, request a COVID-19 test processed by the State Hygienic Laboratory and report this information to your supervisor. If you are denied a test, report this information to your supervisor.**

### MITIGATION PRACTICES MUST BEGIN FOR ALL STAFF INVOLVED IN SOCIAL WORK PRACTICES REQUIRING FACE-TO-FACE CONTACT WITH YOUTHS

1. Implement common-sense practices for preventing disease spread, such as: covering a cough, staying home when sick, and washing hands.
2. Call in advance of conducting home visits or other face-to-face meetings. (see screening questions below. These should be asked in advance).
3. During face-to-face meetings, do not sit within 6 feet of the youth.
4. Avoid handling paperwork during the meeting.
5. Avoid touching your face or hair during the meeting.
6. Wash hands for at least 20 seconds with warm, soapy water or hand sanitizer before and after the meeting.

### CONTAINMENT DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

In-person contacts with youth in scattered site programs are not advised at this time. DHS recommends telephone and video options, whenever reasonable and possible. We expect a greater number of contacts via these methods, which should be greater than what is contractually required for in-person contacts.

*\*in order for this contact to be considered substantive, satisfy contractual requirements for in-person visits, the contact should be 30 minutes or more. Brief phone calls do not count as taking the place of the contractually required in-person contacts. These contacts should be documented in the appropriate systems and should be identified the type of contact that took place. During each contact, staff should discuss COVID-19 symptoms, mitigation practices and social distancing.*

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You should ask the following health screening questions during interactions with the youth:

### Do you currently have any of the following?



Fever



Shortness of breath



Cough



Sore Throat



Have you had contact with anyone who has known or possible exposure to the COVID-19 in the last 14 days?



Are you on home quarantine or isolation due to possible contact with someone with possible or confirmed COVID-19 or due to travel?



Have you or anyone in the household recently discharged from a hospital due to confirmed COVID-19 or due to travel?

**If youths answer 'yes' to any of the questions then:**

- ▶ Direct the youth to their healthcare provider for medical evaluation. Call ahead before visiting the doctor. The healthcare provider will report this information to the local health department if necessary.
  - Advise the youth to stay home, except to get medical care and to separate himself/herself from other people and animals.
  - Direct the youth to avoid sharing personal household items and to clean high touch surfaces every day.
  - As appropriate, suggest household members stay in another room or be separated from the youth as much as possible.
  - Suggest that the youth limits non-essential visitors in the home.
- ▶ Assist the youth in obtaining items they need while they are ill. Deliver the items (food, health needs, etc), but drop them off outside of the home to minimize contact.
- ▶ Increase communication to daily phone or video conference to ensure youth's health does not require emergency attention.
- ▶ Ensure youth knows what to do and who to contact if symptoms get worse. Talk to them about who to call in case of emergency or if they need help after-hours.

***If you become aware of any confirmed or presumptively positive case, please notify DHS or JCS referring worker, your supervisor and Kristin Konchalski, Program Manager over Residential Services.***

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