

Date: May 21, 2020

To: Iowa MIECHV and HOPES-HFI Contractors

From: Janet Horras, State Home Visitation Program Director

Extension of Temporary Protocol: Use of Teleconferencing during Public Health Emergencies (or during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency)

The National Model Developer Alliance and the Health Resources and Services Administration is recommending the continued use of teleconferencing to deliver home visiting services to maintain the health and safety of the workforce and the families we serve. The use of teleconferencing in this state of emergency will decrease the likelihood of spreading the disease. Home visitors should follow their employing organization's policies and procedures.

Group-based parent events that the home visiting program offers should also only be offered virtually using teleconferencing technology.

Teleconferencing methods include Zoom, Skype, FaceTime, Facebook Messenger video calling, and Google Hangouts amongst many others. The specific teleconferencing method should be determined by local family support organizations based on availability and local needs.

Our federal funder has approved virtual home visits in lieu of face to face visits to meet our federally required benchmarks. We want to keep home visitors and the families we serve as safe as possible from the spread of the coronavirus.

As mentioned in our information memo, dated 3/10/20, home visitors that are ill should always refrain from providing home visiting services during their illness. Home visitors should always take care to wash their hands before and after each home visit. Home visitors that are dropping supplies or information of at the family's home should practice social distancing and wear a face mask/covering to protect the health of anyone you come into contact with. Every organization is required to have a vacancy plan in place. You may need to be actively referring to your vacancy policy during this time.

We also want to encourage you to refer again to the IDPH website for up to date and accurate information on the Coronavirus:

Covid 19 in Iowa Website: <http://Coronavirus.iowa.gov>

Please reach out to us if you have a specific situation that you would like to discuss. Thank you again, for all you do on behalf of the families we serve.

This temporary protocol is in effect until July 31, 2020.