

May 12, 2020

Dear Parent,

As Vermont begins to “open up” again, we are writing to let you know of steps that we need to take as we begin face to face contact. We appreciate your cooperation in these efforts to keep everyone safe and healthy. These steps are supported by information coming from the Centers for Disease Control and the Vermont Department of Health.

Do not attend in-person family time if you:

- Tested positive or were clinically diagnosed positive for COVID-19,
- Were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 in the last 14 days, or
- Are displaying symptoms of COVID-19.

Please screen yourself before you leave your home to come to family time. Ask yourself:

- Have I been in close contact with anyone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
- Have I experienced any of these symptoms in the last few days: cough, fever, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat and new loss of taste or smell?
- Do I have a fever of 100.4° or higher? Take your temperature before you go.

Temperatures of 100.4° F and higher will result in the cancellation of family time. We recommend caution if an individual has a fever below 100.4°F. If you cancel because of a low-grade fever, we will honor your request to be cautious and protective.



If handheld thermometers are available, staff are going to attempt to take everyone's temperature on site before family time begins.

All those involved in in-person family time must wear cloth face coverings. This excludes children under the age of 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, and anyone who cannot remove the covering without assistance.

It is our standard practice to cancel or reschedule family time if the child, parent, or caregiver is sick (or another child in the home requiring care is sick). This remains true now.

During in-person contact, continually:

- Help us to monitor everyone for symptoms of COVID-19 (see above).
- Inspect children for signs of infection (e.g., flushed cheeks, fatigue, extreme fussiness).
- Individuals must frequently wash their hands with soap & water for at least 20 seconds

Please do your best to practice physical distancing guidelines during family time. We realize this may not always be possible, especially if you have an infant or a toddler. We understand that you'll want to comfort your child if they are scared or anxious and show them that you love them. Think about ways you can do this while also protecting yourself and the child.

A staff person from Easter Seals VT or NFI will be in touch with you to schedule a Shared Parenting Meeting if you don't already have one scheduled for planning to move from remote family time back to in-person.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please let your worker know if you have questions.

Sincerely,



Christine Johnson
Deputy Commissioner
DCF-Family Services

