

Guidance for Home Visiting Providers during COVID-19

(Based on information from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the CDC)

Guidance for visiting clients with known or suspected COVID-19

Which patients are at risk for severe disease for COVID-19?

Based upon CDC data, older adults or those with underlying chronic medical conditions may be most at risk for severe outcomes.

How should home visiting providers screen patients for COVID-19?

When making a home visit, staff should identify patients at risk for having COVID-19 infection before or immediately upon arrival to the home. They should ask patients about the following:

- 1. International travel within the last 14 days to countries with sustained community transmission. For updated information on affected countries visit:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>*
- 2. Signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as a fever, cough, and sore throat.*
- 3. In the last 14 days, has had contact with someone with or under investigation for COVID19, or are ill with respiratory illness.*
- 4. Residing in a community where community-based spread of COVID-19 is occurring.*

What should home visiting providers do if they are visiting a healthy client?

For healthy clients based on answers given to the above screening questions, measures should still be taken to protect the client and the home visiting provider, where possible. This can be done by maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet from the client, not touching surfaces in the home, using hand sanitizer upon leaving the home, and not touching your face.

If the home visiting provider must get closer than 6 feet to the client, consider wearing a face mask, or asking the client to wear one.

What should home visiting providers do if they are visiting an ill client?

For ill clients, if you can reschedule for another time when the client is healthy, this is preferred.

If you must continue with the home visit, implement source control measures (i.e., placing a facemask over the patient's nose and mouth if that has not already been done). If possible, maintain a safe distance (6 feet) from the client while continuing with the visit and do not touch surfaces in the home. Upon leaving the home, immediately use hand sanitizer and do not touch your face. Make sure you notify your supervisor of the client's illness.

**Home visiting providers who have signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection should not report to work. Any staff that develop signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection while on-the-job, should notify their supervisor immediately, stop work, put on a facemask, and self-isolate at home.*