

FALL 2020



Reconnect.
Reopen.
Stay Safe.

Protocols for Social Workers Conducting Safe Home Visits

During this pandemic it is our goal to stay connected with students and families. School staff can contact families via phone, email, postal mail, or virtual communications. When contact cannot be made, and a home visit is absolutely necessary, it is our priority to ensure staff are safe. It is important to follow health and safety guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS). In addition, we consult with the Guilford County Health Department. Below is the guidance that we will follow for home visits, taken from the CDC and NCDHHS directed at child protective services social workers related to home visits.

Protocol for Required Home Visits Conducted by Staff

- Wear face cloth covering and face shield
- Wear gloves
- Use hand sanitizer (60% or more alcohol)
- Use and dispose of bags
- Wash hands using soap and water

Home Visit Procedures

- Call the family to arrange visits whenever the call is not consistent with the adult's safety, inquiring about COVID-19 diagnosis, symptoms or exposure. Plan on how the visit will be conducted.
- Leave all belongings in your transportation, only take what paperwork you need to the door.
- Disinfect pens, if needed, to sign documents.

Protocols for Social Workers

Conducting Safe Home Visits



- Maintain 6 feet or more when interacting with all individuals, to the extent possible. Consider meeting outside, meeting on the other side of a glass door, or meeting at an alternate location that allows observation and interaction safely.
- If calling ahead is not an option, within the first few minutes of the home visit, ask if anyone in the home is currently sick or has been sick within the last 14 days.
- If answered affirmatively, gather more information about the individual's symptoms (fever, cough, etc.) and proceed with the visit **OUTSIDE** and take reasonable precautions which include:
 - Wearing a face covering
 - Maintaining physical distance at 6 feet or more
 - Discarding items in a disposable bag
 - Disposing of bag
 - Sanitizing hands
- If no, proceed with visit. Upon conclusion, be sure to sanitize, wash hands, and disinfect surfaces in your transportation that you touch.

<https://files.nc.gov/ncdhhs/documents/files/covid-19/COVID-19-APS-Guidance.pdf><https://files.nc.gov/ncdhhs/documents/files/covid-19/NC-Interim-Guidance-for-PPE-in-Non-Medical-Setting.pdf>