

Guidance regarding visits for parents/relatives and children/young adults in the care of DHS including cases that share concurrent jurisdiction with Oregon's Nine Tribes or U.S. Federally Recognized Tribes as of 3.23.20 at 12pm

For all visitation and family contact: Please modify plans to allow daily phone and virtual contact between families of origin and children; as well as siblings that are not together. These are unprecedented times. Our families and children who are separated from each other may need extra support and assurances that everyone is OK. Hearing each other's voices and/or seeing each other virtually will help maintain and build engagement.

Children 5 years and under including children who are members of a U.S. tribal nation and/or members of an Oregon tribe.

As of 3/24/20, we are suspending face-to-face visitation for all parents and children/young adults in DHS offices. After the two-week mark, we will reassess and provide an update.

As stated above: please modify plans to allow daily phone and virtual contact between families of origin and children; as well as siblings that are not together. Children of all ages (even babies) can absolutely benefit from seeing their parents via videoconferencing and/or hearing their voices by phone. Parents will also greatly benefit from this contact. We know that parents are more motivated to stay engaged in their case plan and children do better when they are having frequent contact.

Children 6 years and over including children who are members of a U.S. tribal nation and/or members of an Oregon tribe.

As of 3/24/20, we are suspending face-to-face visitation for all parents and children/young adults in DHS offices. After the two-week mark, we will reassess and provide an update.

Visits for parents and children/young adults may continue to be held in the outside of the DHS offices with the following considerations:

- Foster parents, parents, the Tribe, and caseworkers agree there are no health-related concerns around visits and there is enough room to practice social distancing. Please engage folks in a discussion about the importance of visitation for parents and children.
- If there are questions about the visits occurring, Program Managers, and the Tribe when applicable, would review visits on a case-by-case basis and make the final decision whether the visit should occur.
- If visits are not able to occur in person in the community every effort should be made to have virtual visits.
- **When suspending face-to-face visits for a tribal child, please update and consult with the tribe as soon as possible. It is important to maintain collaboration with tribal partners on methods to maintain contact outside of face to face contact, i.e. Skype, phone calls, etc.** If the tribal representative is not available or unable to provide tribal perspective, reach out to Active Efforts Specialists or Tribal Affairs Unit for guidance.

For all visitation between parents and children/young adults, please take the following precautionary measures:

- Prior to visits, work with foster families to ensure that children and visiting family are not experiencing illness, nor have they been in contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Consider on a case-by-case basis if anyone in the foster family or family's household has underlying health vulnerabilities and have staff consult with their supervisor should any health concerns exist (e.g. Child with symptoms visiting a parent who lives with an elderly grandparent). Program Managers will make the decision if visits should occur.
- Please take the following precautions:
 - Wipe down surfaces with disinfectant before and after each visit. (light switches, doorknobs, tables, chairs etc.)
 - Wash hands before and after visits. Have children change their clothes upon returning to placement.
 - Please adhere to policies that mirror CDC social distancing recommendations that are outlined here:
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASESCONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/Pages/emerging-respiratory-infections.aspx>