

## GUIDANCE FOR PROGRAMS THAT CONDUCT IN-HOME VISITS

("Home Visitor" refers to a person who provides program services to individuals/families in their homes.)

When	Mandatory	Recommended best practices
<b>ALWAYS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Continue conducting visits by tele-visit whenever possible.</i></b></li> <li>• <b><i>Comply with local Public Health Alert System guidelines and local advisories when initiating or resuming in-home visits as appropriate.</i></b></li> </ul>	
Prior to the home visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agencies conducting home visits must ensure they have written policies in place that, at a minimum describe how the agency will:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Implement all mandatory requirements for completing home visits, complying with public health orders and any recommended best practices the agency is using.</li> <li>○ Ensure home visitors have access to required face coverings and have been trained in the use and disposal of face coverings.</li> <li>○ Address home visiting staff who are in an at-risk group or who share a household with an individual in an at-risk group.</li> <li>○ Report employee or client/program participant infections to the local health district, and work with the local health department to identify potentially exposed individuals to help facilitate appropriate communication/contact tracing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• When applicable, obtain approval from clients/program participants to conduct the visit in-person</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home visitors suspected of having COVID-19 or being exposed to COVID-19 should be encouraged to contact their primary care physician as necessary.</li> <li>• Agencies should provide daily temperature checks with a thermometer.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that daily symptom assessment is conducted.*</li>   <li>• Ensure home visitors who are symptomatic notify their supervisor and not make any home visits.</li>   <li>• Ensure the agency follows CDC guidance for any home visitor suspected or confirmed of having COVID:  <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html</a> .</li>   <li>• When scheduling the visit, the home visitor must call the individual being visited to: 1) determine if the individual(s) participating in the home visit or anyone in the household has had close contact with a person with probable or confirmed COVID-19; and 2) complete a symptom assessment for the individual(s) participating in the home visit and anyone in the household.</li>   <li>• If the individual(s) being visited or anyone else in the household is symptomatic or has had close contact with a person with probable or confirmed COVID-19, the in-person home visit should not be held and should be re-scheduled. CDC guidance should be provided to the individual(s):  <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html</a> .</li>   <li>• Prior to entering the home for the home visit, repeat the symptom assessment. If the individual(s) being visited or anyone else in the household is symptomatic or</li> </ul>	
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\*Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea. Home visiting agencies should frequently check the CDC list of COVID-19 symptoms for updates: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.

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	<p>has had close contact with a person with probable or confirmed COVID-19, the in-person home visit must be canceled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean/sanitize hands consistent with CDC guidance prior to starting the home visit.</li> </ul>	
<p>During the home visit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The home visitor must utilize a facial covering (covering the individual’s nose, mouth and chin) or appropriate PPE during the visit.</li> <li>• The home visitor must ensure a minimum of 6 feet between the home visitor and members of the household except when necessary to complete a required component of the visit.</li> <li>• The home visitor must bring only items needed for that visit into the home and not share (pens, paper, etc.) with individuals in the household.</li> <li>• Ask household members not participating in the home visit to stay in a different part of the house from where the visit is taking place unless providing a needed support such as, but not limited to, sign language interpretation or spoken language interpretation.</li> <li>• The home visitor must avoid placing laptop, tablet, binder, or other equipment on a surface that may have potential contamination.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask program clients/participants to consider wearing face coverings at all times. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Masks should not be placed on children younger than 2 years old; anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious; or anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.</li> </ul> <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/cloth-face-cover.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/cloth-face-cover.html</a> </li> <li>• Consider conducting the home visit outside if possible.</li> <li>• Limit home visit participants to those necessary to complete the home visit.</li> <li>• If possible, sit on a hard chair that can be cleaned/sanitized before and after sitting. Home visitor may also consider bringing own chair that can be cleaned/sanitized between visits.</li> </ul>
<p>After the home visit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The home visitor must clean/sanitize any laptop, tablet, binder, pen, or other equipment used during the home visit.</li> <li>• The home visitor must clean/sanitize hands frequently.</li> <li>• The home visitor must clean/dispose of face covering at the end of the day, or after an encounter with an individual who is confirmed or suspected of having</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean items worn at the home visit.</li> <li>• Clean/sanitize home visitor’s car at the end of the day.</li> <li>• Change masks in between home visits.</li> </ul>

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	<p>COVID-19, or whenever the mask becomes visibly soiled or wet such that it makes breathing difficult.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The home visitor must notify their supervisor when they learn of individuals with COVID-19 symptoms.</li><li>• The home visitor must maintain accurate records of completed home visits including date and time of the home visit, the name(s) of individual(s) participating in the visit, and contact information to assist in contact tracing.</li></ul>	
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### **Resources and Additional Information**

#### **Public Health Advisory System**

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/public-health-advisory-system/>

#### **Guidance based on community exposure, for individuals exposed to others with known or suspected/possible COVID-19**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html>

#### **CDC Cleaning/Disinfecting Information**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

#### **Responsible RestartOhio**

For up-to-date information on sector specific operating requirements, continued closures, and other resources related to the reopening of Ohio businesses, [click here](#).

#### **New COVID-19 Guidance for Pregnant Women**

On June 26, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revised [guidance on the risk of COVID-19 to pregnant women](#). In a [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\) published in June](#), the CDC indicated that pregnant women may be at increased risk for severe COVID-19 illness. More specifically, the MMWR study determined that pregnant women with COVID-19 were more likely than non-pregnant women to be hospitalized and at increased risk for intensive care unit (ICU) admission and the receipt of mechanical ventilation. In its public-facing guidance, CDC notes that among pregnant people with COVID-19 “there may be an increased risk of adverse pregnant outcomes, such as preterm birth.”

#### **COVID-19 Pre-surge and Longer-Term Planning Toolkit for Long Term Services and Community Supports**

The Ohio Departments to Aging, Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Medicaid worked together to create a toolkit for provider organizations and staff serving Ohioans who utilize LTSS or home visiting services during the COVID-19 crisis. This toolkit reflects the importance of Governor Mike DeWine’s aggressive approach to protecting all of Ohio’s residents during the pandemic and aligns with his direction to prepare to care for any possible “surge” of individuals contracting COVID-19. As Ohio’s pandemic has shifted to a series of COVID-19 outbreaks largely in congregate environments, the original toolkit has been updated to incorporate the most recent changes.

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/docs/Pre-Surge-Longer-Term-Planning-Toolkit.pdf>

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### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/using-ppe.html>

#### Vendor Information

Here’s the [webpage](#) that contains the information and lists of PPE vendors. The relevant parts of the page are pasted below. See the DSA/DAS list at the bottom under “Additional Resources.”

#### Ohio Emergency PPE Makers’ Exchange

The [Ohio Emergency PPE Makers’ Exchange](#), launched by the [Ohio Manufacturing Alliance to Fight COVID-19](#), is an online marketplace where organizations that need personal protective equipment (PPE) and related equipment can find a wide selection offered by Ohio manufacturers. This online exchange offers PPE and related equipment for healthcare workers, first responders, and small businesses. It’s especially well-suited for organizations that may have lower-volume needs, such as nursing homes, police departments, and small business employers.

The Alliance has screened to the best of its ability for only Ohio manufacturers, but it has not vetted each product and vendor.

The Alliance also has created [this list of practical things](#) manufacturers need to be thinking about and do today to prepare for COVID-19.

#### JobsOhio PPE Database

Several Ohio companies are working to increase the supply of in-demand medical PPE. [JobsOhio](#) has partnered with OMA, the Administration and with our Regional Network partners to provide assistance. A list of manufacturers, distributors, and potential contract manufacturers to connect with these resources is available through JobsOhio’s [Ohio Safe. Ohio Working.](#) website.

#### Additional Resources

In addition to the resources available via the Ohio Manufacturing Alliance and JobsOhio, the Ohio Development Services Agency and the Ohio Department of Administrative Services has compiled another [list of vendors providing various PPE](#).

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## PPE Needed for Healthcare Workers

### Based on Exposure and Patient Symptoms



#### NO EXPOSURE NO SYMPTOMS

- **Mask:** medical facemask: extended use and reuse all shift\*
- **Eye protection:** only for routine precautions
- **Gown:** only for routine precautions
- **Gloves:** only for routine precautions



#### EXPOSED NO SYMPTOMS

- **Mask:** surgical facemask: extended use and reuse all shift\*
  - N95 only with aerosolization
- **Eye protection:** extended use and re-use goggles / face shield
- **Gown:** expired disposable or cloth isolation
- **Gloves:** medical grade, nonsterile
  - Change between patients



#### COVID-19 CONFIRMED OR SUSPECTED

- **Mask:** N95 extended wear within cohort/isolation, limited reuse\*
- **Eye protection:** extended use and re-use goggles / face shield
- **Gown:** expired or cloth isolation\*
  - Change between patients
- **Gloves:** medical grade, nonsterile
  - Change between patients

*\*Unless contaminated (wet, soiled, damaged)*



MIKE DEWINE  
GOVERNOR OF OHIO



Department of Health

[coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov)