


## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** June 22, 2021

**TO:** Directors, Local Department of Social Services  
Assistant Directors, Local Department of Social Services  
Public and Private Resource Providers

**FROM:** Michelle L. Farr, LCSW-C, LICSW   
Executive Director, Social Services Administration

**RE:** Adult Protective and Child Welfare Services: In-Person Contact and Out-of-State Travel Guidance

On June 15, 2021 the Governor indicated that Maryland's COVID-19 State of Emergency will end on July 1, 2021. In light of this decision, the Maryland Department of Social Services (SSA) is returning to pre-pandemic In Person Contact and Out-of-State Travel policies and procedures. SSA continues to support safe in-person contact for all parties with an understanding that PPE may be utilized as needed, however the use of PPE is not required.

### Adult Protective Services

Effective July 1, 2021, the Waiver related to APS will no longer be in effect. All programs, including IHAS, shall resume pre-pandemic operations related face-to-face visits.

### Child Protective Services

All pre-pandemic CPS policies remain in effect. When conducting an CPS response or response to an assessment (Request of Another Agency, Services to Families with Children –Intake, etc.) the caseworker may ask whether any household members are showing signs of COVID-19 (reciting symptoms) or have been recently exposed to COVID-19 and may choose to utilize PPE.

### In-Person Visitation (Caseworker, Parent, Family, Sibling Visits, and/or Resource Parents)

All pre-pandemic policies related to in-person visits (In- and Out-of-State) with caseworkers, parents, family, children, siblings, and resource parents are to be followed. For any scheduled visits, when parents, children or the family visit supervisor are sick or showing signs of illness, PPE may be utilized, other visitation options (i.e. by telephone or video conference) may be explored or the visit may be rescheduled. Any exceptions to conducting in-person visits must be approved by the supervisor.

### Out-of-State Travel

All pre-pandemic policies and procedures related to out-of-state travel are to be followed.

For questions or concerns, please contact Shalini Arora, Director of Permanency, via email at [shalini.arora@maryland.gov](mailto:shalini.arora@maryland.gov).

