

## Safety & Health Considerations for Home Visits

### Before the visit

If possible, staff should **call ahead to confirm the visit and review the family's health and exposure status**. Below is an example script to use on the phone:

*I'm sure you know that coronavirus has been in the news lately. Since we make a lot of home visits, we don't want to bring any germs into your home—or anyone else's—so I am going to ask you a few questions:*

**(a) Has anyone at home been sick?** Stomach problems or vomiting? Cold symptoms, coughing, or difficulty breathing? Flu symptoms, fever (100.3°F or higher)?

**(b) Has anyone in your home travelled outside the country** in the last 14 days?

**(c) Have you or anyone in your home been in contact with anyone infected** with coronavirus?

- If client says yes to **(a) only**, staff should discuss with their supervisor whether they should reschedule or make the visit. The **decision should be based on risk and safety factors in the home, as well as staff member's susceptibility**.
- If client says yes to **(b) only, verify the travel country**. If the client has traveled to [China, Japan, South Korea, Italy, or Iran](#), reschedule the visit and ask them to **contact their medical provider**. Follow up by phone. [If the client has not traveled to an affected area](#), the risk of transmission is low and the **visit can continue as scheduled**.
- If client says yes to **(c) only**, suggest the family **consult with a medical provider**. Make a plan to check back in by phone. Reschedule the home visit for 14 days after the initial date of exposure or sooner if the family receives clearance from a medical provider.
- If client says yes to **(a) and (b)**, or **(a) and (c)**, staff should ask to **reschedule and conduct a phone session**. Staff should also suggest that the family see a medical provider and make a plan to check back in with the family by phone. Staff can decide with their supervisor whether to wait 14 days or make a home visit as soon as the family is feeling better.

### During home visits

During all home visits, staff should practice [universal precautions](#) and encourage the family to do the same.

- **Wash hands** frequently! Use soap and water for 20 seconds (or sing "Happy Birthday" twice).
- Use **hand sanitizer** when you can't use soap.
- Cough or sneeze into a **tissue or your elbow**.
- Spray surfaces with **disinfectant** if anyone in the household is sick.