

	<i>Commonwealth of Massachusetts</i>
	Executive Office of Health and Human Services
	Department of Youth Services
	<i>Informational fact sheet for family member visiting programs COVID 19</i>

The Department of Youth Services acknowledges the challenges experienced by our youth and families who have not been able to have in-person visits at any location during the pandemic. At this time, consistent with guidance from CDC and DPH, DYS plans to resume limited in-person visits for families. These visits will be subject to very specific requirements essential to maintain the health and safety of our visitors, youth and staff. Virtual visits will continue to occur for all youth and families, who may not be able to visit in person.

- Supervised in-person visits will be permitted in a DYS approved designated outdoor space at each location, weather permitting. No visits shall occur in an enclosed area.
- Visitors will only be permitted to enter the residential setting/building when necessary to access the designated outdoor visitation space, or when a visitor has an urgent need to use a bathroom.
- The visiting space will be disinfected after each visit for everyone's safety.
- Each youth may have two family members/guardians visit at a time. Programs may use virtual visits to supplement visits.
- All visits shall be scheduled in advance with Program Management or designee. Visits will occur in one hour increments. Each site may have varied visit times to ensure that appropriate space is available.
- Each visitor must call the program the day of their scheduled visit to confirm they are still coming, that they are not sick and that they do not have a fever. The visitor will also be advised that they will be required to answer a series of screening questions and have their temperatures taken prior to entering the visiting area.
- Each visitor will leave the visiting location with an informational sheet that outlines how to notify the program, should they experience COVID-19 symptoms after having participated in a visit.
- Visits are subject to cancellation at any time per DYS policy.

Screening for all Visitors:

Visitors will adhere to the Department of Youth Services Single Point of Entrance (SPE) and Screening Question Protocols for all entry to DYS sites to gain access to outdoor grounds for visits.

Face Covering and Social Distancing:

- The Facility or Program will provide each visitor with a cloth mask for the first visit at the entrance. Both the youth and visitors must wear a mask for the entire visit. The visitors will be asked to clean the cloth mask and to bring it for use in future DYS visits.
- Youth and their visitors will maintain social distancing during visits by remaining at least 6 feet apart. Chairs will be arranged to support social distancing. Visitors may not move the items in the visiting space. Any form of physical contact such as hugging, kissing, handshaking or handholding is strictly prohibited to ensure the health and safety of everyone.

A family member/guardian must adhere to all safety and security protocols at the residential setting. DYS reserves the right to cancel or terminate visits for health and safety concerns.