Recommendations for Providing Support to Students in Their Homes

10/7/2021

These recommendations were developed to help school district staff meet individual needs for in-person, in-home services for students with disabilities, ages birth to 21 years, who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP), while also following school and community public health efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19. These are recommendations for any school staff who provide in-person, in-home services to students on an IEP/IFSP.

Before the visit

School staff

- Staff with symptoms of COVID-19 should not visit anyone’s home. Symptoms include a fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, a new cough or a cough that gets worse, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, a sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, muscle pain, excessive fatigue, a new severe headache, new nasal congestion, or a runny nose.
- Staff should not visit anyone’s home if they are awaiting COVID-19 test results.
- If a staff member who is not fully vaccinated is a close contact of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, they should quarantine, and the home visit should be postponed.
- Staff members should follow this guidance to determine if they should quarantine: Close Contacts and Tracing: COVID-19 (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/close.html).

Students and families

- Notify the school and/or program if anyone living in the residence:
  - Has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days.
  - Has COVID-19 compatible symptoms.
  - Has a pending COVID-19 test due to illness or exposure.
  - Has been identified as a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case and has not completed quarantine.
The school and/or program may delay the visit or recommend staff take additional protective measures during the visit, depending on employer policies and applicable local, state, or federal requirements.

During the visit

- Follow the recommendations for layering mitigation measures, including face coverings, in the Best Practice Recommendations for COVID-19 Prevention in Schools for the 2021-22 School Year (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/schoolreces.pdf).
- If possible, and as weather permits, consider an outdoor visit or increasing ventilation of fresh air (e.g., by opening windows) during an indoor visit.

Resources for additional guidance:

- CDC: Guidance for Direct Service Providers (www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/humandevelopment/covid-19/guidance-for-direct-service-providers.html)
- CDC: Schools and Child Care Programs (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html)