

Kern County

On -Site Family Visitation Guidelines in Response to COVID-19

Phase I- CVC Reopening

Maintaining family contact and regular visitation is the single most important factor in supporting a child's attachments to his or her parents, and one of the best predictors of successful reunification, thus it is important to ensure we carry out a safe visitation plan during this pandemic to safeguard the health of our families. We have a further responsibility to follow court-ordered visitation as set by the Court. Phase I will include visits off-site and at the Children's Visitation Center (CVC).

Phase I CVC strategy is as follows:

- Visits at the CVC will be limited to only five (5) visiting families at any one time.
- Visit times will be 9-11, 11:30-1:30, and 2-4 pm. Total CVC visit count is 15 per day/75 per week.
- The visit staffing ratio is 1 Human Services Aide per family.
- Submit referrals for all visitation to the HSA referral inbox.
- All visits at the CVC facility, including the CVC Park, will need HSA Supervisor approval.
- Visitation at the CVC limited to only court-ordered visits.

VISITATION PLAN FOR CVC

- Visits will primarily take place in the CVC Park; things considered for indoor visits include but not limited to parent/child (s) age, health, and the weather. If the visit moves inside, rooms A, B, C, E, and F will be used (1 family per area).
- Families will be asked to clean-up using disinfecting wipes 15-mins before their visit ends.
- A designated floater HSA will sanitize park tables and benches when the visit ends.
- For indoor visits, supervising staff (SSW, HSA, FFA) will use a sign-out sheet (clipboards in each room) to show the room was cleaned.
- A designated floater HSA will sanitize visitation rooms when the visit ends and initial next to the supervising staff's name on the sign-out sheet.

BEFORE THE VISIT

- SSW/HSA should advise families prior to the initial visit that masks are required.
- The day before the scheduled visit the supervising SSW or HSA will contact all parties to ask the following prescreening questions:
 - Fever, cough, or shortness of breath (difficulty breathing), headache, chills, muscle pains, sore throat, diarrhea, or the recent loss of taste or smell.
 - Have you, your children, or anyone in your home tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
 - Have you, your children, or anyone in your household been exposed to someone having COVID-19?
- If the answer to any of these questions is yes, the visit will be canceled and rescheduled. The caregiver and/or parent will be advised to consult their health care provider and the county health department. *If anyone has a fever or symptoms, the person must isolate at home for at least 14 days and should be without fever or symptoms for 3 days, before resuming in-person visits. The SSW should arrange virtual visits or phone calls.*

DROP-OFF/PICK-UP

Curbside check-in system to maintain social distancing guidelines:

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- When caretakers (including FFA and STRTPs) and parents arrive, they will need to call the CVC Phone number at **633-7054** to notify CVC staff of their arrival.
- CVC staff will record the child's information and verbally provide the caretaker or parent with a 'check in number' for PII purposes.
- Signs will be posted outside the CVC with the check in phone number and instructions.
- Caretakers and parents are to wait inside their car/outside until all the family unit arrives.
- If the parent does not have a cell phone, CVC staff will greet the parent at the door, record their information, provide them a check in number and ask them to wait outside until the rest of their family unit arrives.
- When the family unit has arrived, CVC staff will contact all parties, confirm their check in number, and ask them to meet at the CVC front door. Supervising staff will then escort them to the CVC Park.
- A parent (s) will not be permitted to get their child (ren) out of the car or car seat or put the child (ren) back into the car or car seat.

ENTERING THE CVC

Entrance into the CVC will be limited to supervising staff and families with pre-scheduled visits. We will ask caretakers and other visitors to remain outside. Before allowing entrance into the CVC temperature checks will be completed by a designated HSA.

- If a child/parent (s) temperature is over 100.4, the visit will be canceled. If anyone refuses to follow the process, entry into the CVC will be denied.
- Parents and all children age 4 and above must wear a mask for entry and during the visit.
- If a parent or caregiver or has a fever the visit will be canceled and rescheduled.
- Visitors who do not have masks/face covering will receive masks. Gloves will be provided upon request.
- The visit will be canceled if the parent (s) refuses to wear a mask/face covering during the visit.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

The parent will not be permitted to bring any belongings into the visit, except for food/snacks.

If a parent brings supplies/belongings, the SSW will not proceed with the visit until the supplies are returned to the parent's car or the parent may place their item (s) in the plastic Ziplock bag provided to them. Belongings will be stored in room D until the end of the visit.

The Department will continue to assess the appropriateness of the parent bringing supplies in accordance with public health directives.

ENDING THE VISIT

- When the visit ends, the parent(s) and child (ren) will be escorted to the exit, the east side playground gate, and taken to the caretaker. Supervising staff will walk the child (ren) to their caretaker.
- In a parent/child becomes ill after entry into the CVC, that person will be separated from the others by moving him/her to the outside perimeter through room C-2, and given the "Facts About COVID-19" brochure.

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HOW THE CVC IS PRIORITIZING SAFETY FOR OUR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Safety Practices

- Employees will work to ensure physical distancing, at least 6 feet apart, is followed.
- We will separate family groups.
- CVC staff will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (countertops, doorknobs, sink handles).
- We have put up signage around the building, to promote safe hygiene practices.
- A daily cleaning schedule for more frequent cleaning has been implemented.

Physical Changes

- We have put away indoor toys. Activity kits (coloring pages, crayons, etc.) will be available.
- All outdoor play equipment and play structures are temporarily unavailable.
- Balls (basketball, football) will be available for checkout. Balls can be used in the outdoor park. Balls will be sanitized after use by parents as well as designated H.S.A staff.
- The CVC kitchen area will be closed temporarily.
- One adult restroom and one child restroom will be available for use at the CVC.
- We have added 3 outside hand-washing stations.
- Additional hand sanitizer dispensers and sanitizing wipes were installed inside CVC.
- Desktop sneeze guards at the reception desk have been put up.

Phase II

- OC Sills Visitation, Columbus Visitation Rooms, Shafter, Ridgecrest, and Mojave (Re-opening dates to be determined)
 - Visits conducted at OC Sills will be limited to only six (6) visiting families at any one time. Rooms B, C, D, E, F, and H will be used.
 - We will implement the same safety and sanitizing practices as the CVC.
 - The visit staffing ratio is 1 Human Services Aide per family.
 - We will implement the same drop off and check-in process as the CVC.
 - A walkthrough of each facility will occur before re-opening to ensure all safety guidelines and practices.
 - Program Director Maria Bermudez and/or Becky Hagar will work with PD Dan Miller to coordinate the re-opening of these spaces.