



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES**  
**Bureau for Public Health**

**Bill J. Crouch**  
Cabinet Secretary

Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health

**Ayne Amjad, MD, MPH**  
Commissioner & State Health Officer

June 26, 2020

Hello Parents!

The WV Home Visitation Program (WVHVP) provides in-home services through local programs such as Right From the Start (RFTS), Parents as Teachers (PAT), Early Head Start (EHS), and Healthy Families America (HFA). During the COVID-19 pandemic, home visiting services have been shifted to a telecommunication (virtual) platform to comply with Stay-At-Home orders and physical distancing guidelines. As a program, we are dedicated to ensuring that our families and home visitors are safe during this Public Health emergency.

Beginning July 1, 2020, your home visitor will offer options for receiving services, either face to face or by telecommunications. Enclosed with this letter, you will find a consent form to indicate how you wish to receive your services after July 1, 2020. Please review the consent form and begin to think about how you would prefer your visits to occur. Do not sign the form now – please wait until your home visitor contacts you to discuss options.

The decision to offer certain services face to face is a difficult one. It is impossible to know when someone may have been exposed to or have COVID-19 as some people may not display symptoms. WVHVP understands that some families may not want to receive services in their home. Additionally, some home visitors have health concerns or have family members with health issues and may not be available to provide face to face services.

If you wish to receive face to face services, WVHVP will work to provide face to face services. There may be some situations where a service is not available for face to face delivery. If that is the case, we will continue to offer the service via telecommunication. If you prefer a combination of visits, your home visitor will work with you on scheduling.

Please be aware that in the event Governor Justice issues any further restrictions due to circumstances with the spread of COVID-19, the WVHVP will follow those restrictions.

Sincerely,

Jackie N. Newson, Director  
Home Visitation

cc: Parental Consent for Service Delivery Options  
How to Protect Yourself and Others - CDC

Caregiver Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Parental Consent for Service Delivery Options During COVID-19 Pandemic

CHILD NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PARENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ HOME VISITOR: \_\_\_\_\_

If you choose to receive face to face home visits, WVHVP professionals will be following the CDC recommendations to protect you and themselves. Please see the attached flyer from the CDC on *How to Protect Yourself and Others*. Precautions professionals should use prior to entering your home include:

- Rescheduling visits if they are sick,
- Sanitizing their hands and anything else brought into your home,
- Wearing a face covering and when appropriate gloves, and
- Keeping a safe distance between themselves and your family.

**If professionals do not follow these guidelines, parents have a right to refuse services and choose a new professional.**

They will also ask you questions before your visit, such as:

- Have you or anyone in your home been sick within the past 24 hours (coughing, diarrhea, vomiting)?
- Is anyone running a fever?
- Has anyone recently been exposed to someone with COVID-19?

Please let your home visitor know if anyone has experienced any of these. If your home visitor comes and someone in the house is sick, or has been exposed, they will leave and reschedule the home visit.

Effective July 1, 2020, the WV Home Visitation Program (WVHVP) is offering services by teleconference (virtual) and/or face to face home visits during the current COVID-19 pandemic. Check the service option(s) you prefer and add your initials.

\_\_\_\_\_ Virtual Meeting

\_\_\_\_\_ Face to Face Meeting

\_\_\_\_\_ Both

PARENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

This consent is valid for one year from the date of signature. Consent may be revoked at any time upon the written request of the family or legal guardian or if guidance from the Governor's office, CDC, Public Health officials or National Models change.