



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Bill J. Crouch
Cabinet Secretary

DATE: March 20, 2020
TO: Foster Care Service Providers
FROM: Bill J. Crouch, ^{BJC} Secretary of Department of Health and Human Resources
SUBJECT: **Face-to-face Visitation**

Effectively immediately, all non-safety related face-to-face visitation with foster children including court-ordered visitation is temporarily suspend until April 3, 2020. This decision is made pursuant to the State of Emergency issued on March 16, 2020 and W. Va. Code § 15-5-6(c)(11).

Non-safety related face-to-face visitation includes visits between families and children, sibling visitation, and caseworker visitation. All efforts must be made to maintain contact with families and foster children. Caseworkers and providers must develop plans to allow video-conferencing and telephonic visits that are more frequent. All types of video-conferencing are preferred over telephone calls.

If there is any reason to believe that there are safety concerns regarding the family, the child or foster family, workers and providers must meet face-to-face with the families and children. This face-to-face visit should be conducted using the CDC guidelines.