

Home Visitation During Disease Outbreaks	Effective date: 03/12/2020
	Approved by: Joann Hoganson, Division Director

POLICY

To protect the health and wellbeing of Kent County Health Department (KCHD) home visiting staff, increased surveillance of clients during severe illness outbreaks is required prior to conducting a home visit.

PROCEDURES

1. All Kent County Health Department (KCHD) home visiting staff including:
 - Children's Special Health Care Services
 - Lead
 - Maternal Infant Health Program
 - Nurse Family Partnership
 - Refugees
 - Strong Beginnings
 are subject to this policy until further notice.
2. All home visiting staff are required to contact clients via phone or text prior to conducting a home visit to determine if anyone living in the home is currently experiencing symptoms of acute illness. Your supervisor will provide the necessary screening questions. If anyone living in the home is currently ill, the home visitor should not conduct a home visit.
3. If home visitors are unable to make contact prior to the home visit, staff may proceed to the residence but it is required that the home visitor assess the health status of those living there prior to entering and conducting a visit.
4. If a visit is planned with an interpreter, utilize the agency to contact the client prior to the visit. If the interpreter is unable to reach the client by phone, use the interpreter to evaluate the health status of those living in the residence prior to entering the home.
5. To ensure minimal disruption of services to the families in Kent County, it is expected that home visitors offer telehealth or telephonic intervention for each client.
6. Each program will provide individual direction for the recording of these interactions.