



Centre for Professional Practice

Practice Briefing Note 85

Title:	Arrangements for Family Time and Staff Safety (COVID 19)
Effective From:	22nd January 2021
Practice Note:	<p>There have been a number of issues relating to COVID-19 and Family Time which has impacted upon the safety of staff at Contact Services. Subsequently, directives need to be put in place to make Family Time safer for all involved. These directives need to be supported by staff across the service, in particular Social Workers and Supervising Social Workers.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Prior to Family Time, Contact Workers will call the child's carers and parents to check whether they have any symptoms relating to COVID-19.2. Full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be issued to parents, prior to them entering the Contact Centre.3. Parents will not be allowed to enter the Centre without wearing a mask, unless they are exempt, in which case this needs to be added to the child's file with a clear alert for Contact Services. Social Workers should include this in the Risk Assessment when they refer for Family Time.4. Supervising Social Workers should update the Risk Assessments of carers to include their circumstances as a result of the pandemic eg. if they are shielding etc. These discussions should take place between the child's Social Worker, the Supervising Social Worker, and the Guardian if the matter is still in Court, prior to Family Time being arranged.5. Food and drinks cannot be allowed in to the Contact Centre, as this could increase the risk of infection. Bottled water is available.6. Children will be asked to clean their hands before they leave the Contact Centre, and carers will be asked to bath the children and change their clothes when they return to placement.7. If parents do not comply with the above arrangements, three warnings will be issued, and then contact will be suspended. Parents will be advised of this after the Family Time session has ended, and they will receive notification of this via email or Whatsapp. Parents will be advised to seek advice from their legal teams.

Authorised by:	SLT
Date:	22 nd January 2021
Review Date:	2 nd February 2021
Reference No:	0085/2021/CPP