

CIRCULAR

Date: April 30 2020

CIRCULAR NUMBER: COVID#: 2020-64

To: Authorities, CYSD staff

Subject: **Information Pertaining to COVID-19**

Program(s): All

Type: Policy For Internal Reference Only
 Procedure Information Only

Effective Date Immediately

Topic: Documentation of Face to Face Visits in CFSIS

On April 6, all in-person visits - including family visits - were temporarily altered and/or suspended to help reduce the risk of exposure of COVID-19 to caregivers, staff, and youth/children in care. This included visits that normally occur in CFS offices, group homes, foster homes, respite settings or any other place where contact has been face-to-face.

However, contact with families is an essential service. CFS agencies must exhaust all alternative means of supporting this connection. CFS agencies are encouraged to consider social media, telephone calls, pictures or videos to maintain communication with the children and families that receive their services. In order to document ongoing contact, CFSIS has been updated to capture these additional types of contact. There is a continued requirement to update CFSIS to reflect contact with children and families.

Video call, telephone call, text message and social media have been added as options for recording the location of the face to face visit in CIC, Sup, VFS, FE and Prt cases. The face-to-face visits screen can be found under the functions tab on the top left hand corner of the case screen.

All screening for suspected cases of the virus are to be referred to Health Links at 204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257. The most up-to-date information on COVID-19 can be found at www.manitoba.ca/covid19.

Sarah Thiele | Assistant Deputy Minister
Child and Youth Services