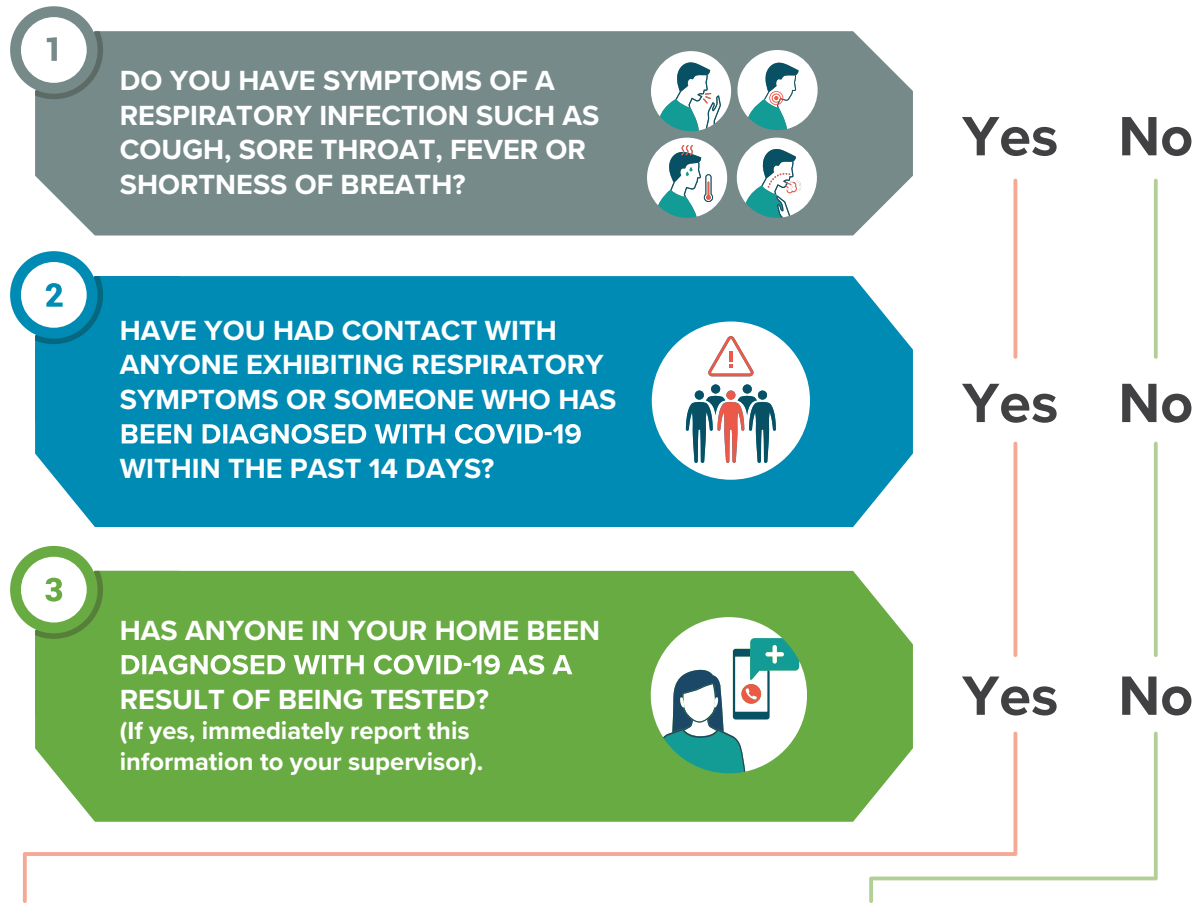


Strategies for Home Visits

Please follow these strategies to safely navigate in-home visits. Contact the family by phone first and let them know you would like to conduct an in-home visit. If they do not answer and you opt to go to their home, maintain a safe distance from the door and ask the following questions.




✘ If a client responds **yes to any of these questions**, contact your supervisor to discuss if you should proceed with the in person visit or by a virtual method. When a child's safety is in question, an in-person assessment must occur.

Does the family have WiFi or access to a mobile hotspot in their home? If so, the virtual visit should be easy. Ask them to use the camera on their mobile device or laptop to walk you through their home room-by-room. Pay close attention to non-verbal children, note the presence of food in the kitchen and the areas where children sleep.

If the family does not have the technology available to do a virtual visit, share DHS CYF guidance about setting up free Internet access. Then use your mobile hotspot to conduct the visit virtually from outside the home.

More detailed guidance on virtual visits will be forthcoming.

✔ If a client answers **no to these questions**, proceed with your work as usual.



In both instances, please use the precautionary measures on the following page.

➔

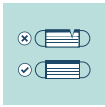


Precautionary Measures



Wear gloves and something to cover your nose and mouth. Encourage families to do the same with whatever they may have available (e.g., a dish towel or pillowcase). Each regional office has a finite number of N95 masks for situations where close physical contact with family members is unavoidable like when a child must be removed from their home. These masks can be reused but should not be shared. Guidance on how to ensure a proper seal can be found here:

[cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2010-133/pdfs/2010-133.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2010-133/pdfs/2010-133.pdf)



If you do not have a mask, the CDC has provided guidance on how to use thick fabrics, like flannel pajamas or pillow cases, to make your own face mask: [youtube.com/watch?v=tPx1yqvJgf4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPx1yqvJgf4)



Bring only items necessary for the visit into the home and sanitize them following the visit



Avoid placing belongings on tabletops and counters that might have high levels of germs



Do not shake hands and maintain an appropriate distance (at least six feet away)



Allow family members to open the door or use a barrier rather than touching doorknobs directly



Do not touch your face until you have had the chance to remove your gloves



If you do not have gloves, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before you leave the home. If soap and water aren't available, use an alcohol-based sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol to kill any possible germs



After doing a walk-through of the home, complete the rest of the assessment on the porch or in the yard, if possible.