

3/17/2020

*This message is being sent on behalf of Lana Brooks, Director Early Learning.*

In an effort to provide schools with the flexibility to continue the delivery of the Parents as Teachers (PAT) personal visits in a safe and healthy manner, we are providing guidance for programs who may want to explore conducting visits virtually. During extended closures related to COVID-19, programs can choose a virtual format. In order to provide a single source for communication around virtual visits, DESE is directing programs to the Parents as Teachers National Center's (PATNC) technical assistance brief entitled *Supporting Families During a Public Health Crisis: Model Guidance for Virtual Service Delivery*, along with a Frequently Asked Questions document. The PATNC is committed to updating this information as needed to provide programs with the most current information necessary to support families during this time. Programs will find this information in the Foundational and/or Model Implementation Workspaces in O.L.I.V.E.R. The FAQ document will continue to be updated with information based on questions from the field. Virtual home visits may contain personally identifiable information or health information. Programs are obligated to protect this information, even in a virtual setting. One way to ensure the protection of this information is to use secure video conferencing. These visits can be counted for reimbursement on the FY2020 PAT Final Invoice. As a reminder, both the *Personal Visit Plan* and the *Personal Visit Record* are required to document the family personal visit. This is not the norm for how visits are delivered but is a way to meet the needs of families amid recommendations for social distancing.

The scheduled PAT Learning Communities for April has been cancelled. Our Early Learning staff will be delivering information using other forms of communication, including recorded webinars and written communication. Look for additional information to come soon.

Even though professional development opportunities are being cancelled, parent educators will have the opportunity to meet the required hours needed for certification through September 30, 2020. Be sure to check the Missouri Parents as Teachers Professional Development Program [website](#) for future updates.