



Child Care *Hot Topics*

Topic 7 : Virtual Visits

Hello Child Care Providers,

In this peacetime emergency when in-person visits are not possible, Scott County has begun virtual visits. Below is a guide to virtual visits. Enjoy!

We are grateful for you and are here to support you. Please reach out to your licensor with any questions, and keep up to date on all things child care in Minnesota by visiting: <https://mn.gov/childcare/>.

-- Child Care Licensing Team

As many of you have heard or have already experienced, Scott County is doing virtual visits for the time being. Though they are not ideal, they have enabled us to restart visits and connect with providers at a time when in-person meetings aren't possible. Your licensor will set up a time with you and send you a link for the visit. We ask that you pick a time that is somewhat quiet in your day care or when you have a second caregiver to assist with the children if needed. If you need to tend to the kids or even hang up and reschedule the remainder of the visit that is fine.

The visit is similar to your past visits. It will be a time to catch up with your licensor, review legislative changes, review COVID guidelines, review paperwork and walk through your home. It is helpful if you have your paperwork ready and accessible during the visit. Some providers have sent pictures of their home prior to the visit which has been helpful, but this is not required. For example, pictures of fire extinguisher tags, first aid kits and rabies verification have been emailed prior to the visit.

Walking through the house has caused some of the licensor's motion sickness, so we ask that you use a phone or a tablet for the visit. Your licensor may close their eyes while you walk up and down stairs.

Also, you may have received a new license in the mail with a new expiration date. DHS has been extending licenses for three months if the relicensing visit has not been completed. We are not sure how long they will be doing this. We are doing visits later than usual as we did not complete visits for three months due to COVID.

We try to keep the visit brief, so you can get back to caring for the children. It has been a joy to connect with providers again, even if it is virtually. Please contact your licensor if you have additional questions.