



Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families

**Guidance on the transportation of siblings in different households
to a Shared Face-to-Face Family Time**

Friday, August 7, 2020

This memo concerns the procedure regarding the transportation of children and youth (sibling group) from different households traveling to the same location for a face-to-face visit with their family during the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognize that transporting siblings separately when children and youth will be together for Face- to-Face Family Time creates some challenges.

Based on your requests and in consultation with RIDOH, DCYF has developed a modification to this guidance for purposes of facilitating visitation for children in out of home care:

- Children and youth, including siblings or other family members, who reside in different households, can be transported in the same vehicle to their visitation time.
- In order to prevent further risk of spread, children and youth being transported need to form a “cohort.” Cohorting means that siblings, or other family members who are being transported for visits, should be transported with the same family members each time. For example, if three children need to be transported for visitations, and three of those children are being transported in one sedan, each week the same three children should be transported together. This way, if one child becomes infectious, it limits the number of people who might be exposed and need to quarantine.
- Prior to entering any vehicle, each child/youth should be carefully screened using the approved COVID-19 screening questions.
- All other guidance regarding wearing masks, keeping windows open, and cleaning vehicle surfaces should be adhered to.

Thank you for continuing to serve Rhode Island’s children and families throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Your efforts for these populations have not gone unnoticed.