



CONNECTIONS Build Bulletin

New COVID-19 CONNECTIONS Build: May 8

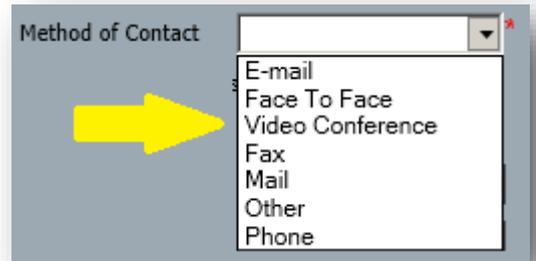
A new CONNECTIONS build is scheduled for release on Friday, May 8th, 2020, in the normal morning maintenance window. This build includes two high-priority changes to the CONNECTIONS application in support of COVID-19 and the resulting altered child welfare landscape. First, the addition of a required question at Intake that assesses whether anyone in the reported home has symptoms of COVID-19, and second, the ability to enter “Video Conference” as a method of casework contact.

1) New Intake Checklist Question — The State Central Register (SCR) will now collect an additional piece of information on the Intake Checklist prior to assigning out new CPS reports to counties. The new question reads: “Has anyone in the home tested positive or had symptoms for COVID-19 (cough, fever, shortness of breath) in the past 14 days?” With “Yes,” “No,” or “Unknown” as options for response. If “Yes” is selected, the SCR is required to enter corresponding comments. The new question, the response, and comments will appear in the Intake Checklist section of the Intake Report and the Intake/IRI report.

Questions	Response
Has anyone in the home tested positive or had symptoms for COVID-19 (cough, fever, shortness of breath) in the past 14 days?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> UNK

2) New Progress Note Contact Method — A new Method of Contact, “Video Conference,” is now available in Progress Notes. This contact method supports current OCFS guidance in maintaining timely casework contacts, while also adhering to social distancing policies as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

The new Method of Contact follows the same rules as the existing “Face to Face” method.



COVID-19 Guidelines from OCFS

OCFS has released several guideline documents, available via the following hyperlinks

- **COVID-19 Guidance for Foster Care and Preventative Staff**
<https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/news/2020/COVID-2020Mar20-Guidance-for-Foster-Care-and-Preventive-Staff.pdf>
- **COVID-19 Guidance for Child Protective Services Staff**
<https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/news/2020/COVID-2020Mar15-Guidance-for-CPS.pdf>
- **COVID-19 Guidance on Completing Foster Parent Certification and Annual Reauthorizations**
<https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/news/2020/COVID-2020Apr10-Guidance-Foster-Parent-Cert-Reauth.pdf>

The CONNECTIONS Team is Here to Help!

Resources

- As always, **CONNECTIONS Implementation Staff** can assist you. A Contact List of each district and agency’s assigned implementation specialists can be found on the CONNECTIONS [Intranet](#) and [Internet](#) pages.
- ITS Service Desk—844-891-1786 or fixit@its.ny.gov

Questions, Comments, or Suggestions?

- Email Us: Connections@ocfs.ny.gov

