These tips and recommendations are designed for families sharing custody of children. They are not intended to be used as legal guidance – despite the challenging circumstances we face, all parties are still required to follow court orders. Governor Evers' Safer at Home Order specifically exempts “to transport children pursuant to a custody agreement.” If you have questions or concerns about your existing order, please contact your family court commissioner.

My ex-spouse and I share custody of our child/children. What if I receive my child from my ex and they are showing symptoms of COVID-19 or are known to have tested positive for COVID-19?

If your child has been exposed to COVID-19, the following steps are recommended by DHS and the CDC:

- Call your child’s doctor.
- Watch for and monitor symptoms (for both you and your child).
- Follow DHS guidance for self-quarantining and monitoring (for both you and your child).

Per the CDC, the symptoms of COVID-19 are similar in children and adults. However, children with confirmed COVID-19 have generally presented with mild symptoms. Reported symptoms in children include cold-like symptoms, such as fever, runny nose, and cough. Vomiting and diarrhea have also been reported.

If your child has symptoms of COVID-19, DHS and CDC guidance for sick persons and caregivers should be followed. This includes both of you staying home, monitoring and self-quarantining for 14 days.

If your child has tested positive for COVID-19, these DHS recommendations should be followed. This includes self-quarantining and monitoring for 14 days.

In addition to the above, follow the CDC prevention and disinfection guidelines to keep you and your family safe.

Additional Resources for Families With Shared Custody

Seven Guidelines for Parents who are Divorced/Separated and Sharing Custody of Children During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts