

Dear HCCASA Advocates:

Hill Country CASA wants to thank you for everything you have been doing to check up on your children during this very difficult time. Please read this document for an update on how we will begin to return to normal visits with our children.

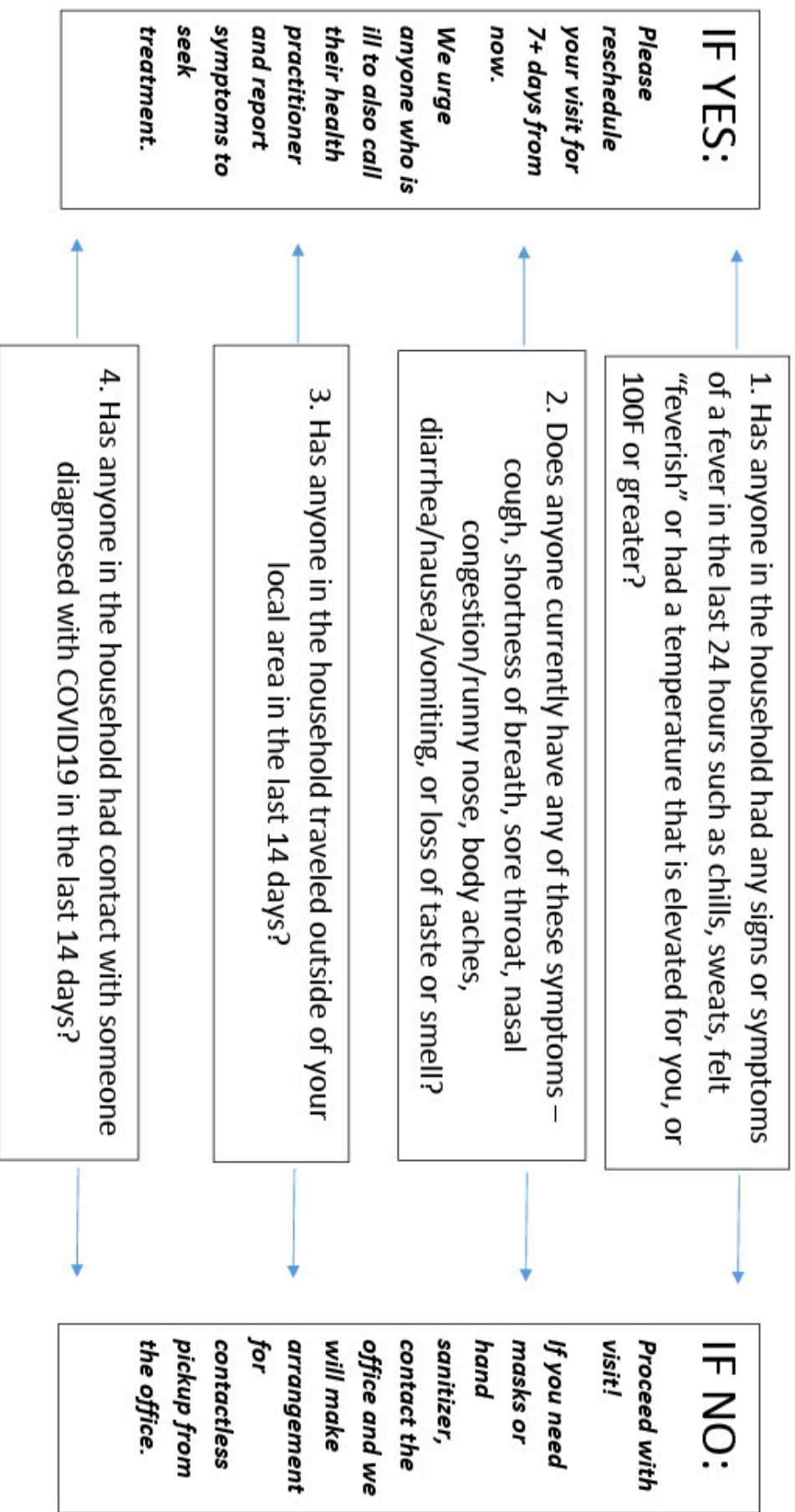
As of June 1, 2020, in accordance with less restrictive court orders, we will resume in person visits with CASA children.

Your safety is of the highest importance to HCCASA, along with the safety of the children and our staff. **Only return to visits if you feel 100% comfortable in doing so.** If you do not feel comfortable making in person child visits, please do not make the visit. This decision is completely at your discretion, and alternative visitation methods may continue for the foreseeable future as needed. Your Case Supervisor will be contacting you in the coming days to discuss your comfort level regarding visitation on your case, and to go over these protocols.

CHILD VISIT PROTOCOLS - The following conditions will apply to visits for the foreseeable future:

1. Both you as the CASA advocate and the current placement need to agree to the visit. If the placement has an objection, find alternative means to make the visit. Those alternatives could be:
 - a. Drive by visit where the placement and child go out to the porch and/or sidewalk to visit with you in your car
 - b. Visit outside with social distancing and masks
 - c. Meet placement/children at a public location and visit over a meal
 - d. If no other options, do a virtual visit – let your supervisor know if placement will not allow you to visit
2. Before your visit, check with the placement about any contact with someone who has been sick, quarantined or tested positive for COVID-19 (see screening questions on the next page). You should also be ready to answer these questions about yourself.
3. During visits you are encouraged to wear a mask and practice social distancing to the best of your ability. If a placement requires that you wear a mask, please do so (CASA office can provide a mask for you and the child(ren) you visit). In addition, different counties and municipalities have different emergency rules, so please be aware whenever you travel to those areas. These precautions are to protect you from bringing illness home or from bringing illness to a child's home.
4. Until further notice, transportation of children is suspended. If you need an exception, contact the Program Director.
5. Due to the ability of this virus to live on surfaces, please do not bring your children gifts, clothing or toys. If your child has an immediate need, please contact your Case Supervisor and arrangements will be made to have a gift card provided to the placement to meet that need.
 - a. You may take a meal or snack to the visit with you to share with your child; please don't take any food not intended to be consumed during the visit.
6. Courts, Mediations and CPS meetings are still operating via teleconference/Zoom until August 1, 2020. We will continue to provide you a schedule with access information in advance, as we have over the last months.
7. Please make sure to document all of your contacts and visits (whether virtually, by phone or in person) in Optima and in a timely manner. Our grants are dependent on the documentation you keep.
8. Should you become ill and suspect you have exposed a child after a visit, please make sure to notify the individuals with whom you have been in contact so they can take the appropriate steps. Also, notify your Case Supervisor.
9. If you identify issues of abuse or neglect during a visit, please report the information you obtained to:
 - a. CASA Case Supervisor
 - b. CPS Caseworker through email and phone call
 - c. CPS Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-252-5400
 - d. Contact local law enforcement and request a welfare check

4 SCREENING QUESTIONS FOR HILL COUNTRY CASA CHILD VISITS



These questions were developed in accordance with recommendations from the CDC and World Health Organization.