

# Home Visiting is Essential – Referral Guidance for Providers Supporting Families During COVID-19

[www.maineamilies.org](http://www.maineamilies.org)

## What is Maine Families Home Visiting?

Before the current health crisis, Maine Families was already a critical link for new and expectant parents, providing one-on-one support at no cost to eligible families, to promote maternal, infant and child health, foster healthy development and school readiness, and provide parenting support.

Now more than ever, Maine Families is an essential service for families as they navigate social isolation, economic uncertainty, the challenge of balancing work without childcare, and other unique and heightened stressors brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.



## Maine Families is Available During the COVID-19 Pandemic

**Families already enrolled in Maine Families are continuing to receive services, and we are able to enroll eligible families.** Family visitors are connecting with parents and caregivers virtually through Zoom and phone visits. Through these virtual visits, family visitors can still do developmental screenings, provide information on children's developmental milestones and early learning, provide linkages to community resources, provide referrals for maternal depression and intimate partner violence, and reduce social isolation for parents. **Virtual visits can be a lifeline for families during COVID-19.**

## Who is eligible to participate?

**Maine Families is available statewide to anyone who is expecting a child or has an infant under the age of 3 months old.** Family eligibility for ongoing service up to age three is determined by family needs. Services are voluntary and provided at no cost to families.

## Questions?

Visit [www.maineamilies.org](http://www.maineamilies.org) to learn more and to find your local program.

## Need a Referral Form?

Visit <http://cradleme.org/> to find the CradleMe request form