



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ROBERT GORDON
DIRECTOR

3/20/2020

Dear Parents,

As we face a public health crisis unlike anything we have seen before, I want to acknowledge the anxiety you may be feeling regarding the health and welfare of your child currently placed in foster care. We recognize how difficult this time is for your family, and want you to know that your child's safety, health, and well-being are our number one concern and priority. It is my strong belief that **you** are the most important person in your child's life and should be included in all decisions that impact your child and your family, especially at this time.

We are following national, state, and local guidance to ensure your child is not exposed to anyone who is symptomatic, has been advised to self-isolate or quarantine, or who has been in contact with anyone who is known or under investigation for having Coronavirus (COVID-19). We have sent information to our staff, foster parents, and relative caregivers about ways they can continue to protect themselves and the children in their care and will continue to send additional guidance as needed.

I know how critically important it is for you to maintain contact with your child. Please understand that in-person contact, while preferred, may not always be possible during this time. Your caseworker will work to arrange phone calls and utilize technology, such as Skype or FaceTime, to allow as much contact as often as possible.

We will work diligently to make sure your child's health needs continue to be addressed. Staff have been instructed to elevate any urgent health needs for children so we can work together to address them as quickly as possible. If you have any concerns about your child's healthcare, please contact your caseworker to discuss them.

We know that you may encounter delays or cancellation of services that are part of your case plan and that court dockets may slow down. Despite these challenges, we are committed to finding ways to support your family and end your child's time in foster care as soon as possible.

I encourage you to regularly check <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> for updated information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and <http://michigan.gov/coronavirus> for updates from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). Additionally, we have implemented a statewide hotline for general questions regarding COVID-19, which will be open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to

5 p.m. You can reach the hotline at 1-888-535-6136. You can also send questions to:
COVID19@michigan.gov.

Thank you for your patience as we work through this very challenging time. It is important that you receive accurate information about what is happening and remain involved. We will continue to work together to ensure the safety and well-being of your child.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joo".

JooYeun Chang
Executive Director, Children's Services Agency
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services