

 <p>Children's Services Agency</p> <p>Communication Issuance</p> <p>20-030* *Obsolete date revised 4/17/20</p>	Subject/Title	COVID-19 Response-Early On Referral Process REVISED
	Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Informational Memorandum <input type="checkbox"/> Program Instruction <input type="checkbox"/> Policy Guide
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	Contact Name	Rachel Harmon
	Email	HarmonR1@michigan.gov
	Phone	906-202-9569
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Distribution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSA Central Office Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MDHHS BSC and County Directors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MDHHS Juvenile Justice Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MDHHS Child Welfare Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Tribes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Workforce Development and Training <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Agency Child Welfare Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residential Abuse/Neglect Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residential Juvenile Justice Managers/Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

MDHHS child welfare field staff must continue to follow MDHHS policy and protocol on making Early On referrals. However, Early On service may be limited, delayed, or not available during the state of emergency caused by COVID-19. Early On operative decisions are made by each individual local Intermediate School District (ISD).

When Early On services are recommended by MDHHS to the court and/or when judges order Early On, inform the court that the recommended service and/or ordered service can only occur in alignment with the local ISD's operational definition of service provision at the time. Many ISD/Early On programs will not respond to the Early On referrals MDHHS sends to them until after **April 6, 2020**.

**Please note that all COVID-19 related communications will be revisited, at minimum, every two weeks, unless additional interim guidance is needed.*