

# Live Event Info.

- Everyone is automatically muted due to the number of participants.
- Participate in Q&A
  - You can interact with presenters through a Q&A.
  - To ask a question:
    - Select **Q&A** on the upper right side of the screen.
    - Type your question in the compose box, and then select **Send**.
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# Children's Services Agency: COVID-19 Updates Parents of Children in Care

April 14, 2020

JooYeun Chang, Executive Director, MDHHS Children's Services Agency



Together, we will make it  
through this.

# Agenda

- Michigan Covid-19 Data
- Initial Placement & Replacements
- Notification & Best Practices
- Visits
- Respite, Reunification, and Travel
- Continuation of Services
- Education
- Reunification
- Legal
- Additional Info. & Resources
- Questions & Answers



# Michigan COVID-19 Data

## Statewide Totals as of 4/14/2020:

- Total Confirmed Cases: 27,001
- Total COVID-19 Deaths: 1,768

## Southeast MI totals (including Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Genesee):

- Total Confirmed: 22,223  
approximately 82%
- Total COVID-19 Deaths: 1,563  
approximately 88%

# COVID-19 Tracking

Presumed and  
Confirmed



## Children:

- **10** children are confirmed positive
  - 9 of those children are placed in a CCI
- **5** additional children in CCIs are presumed positive
- **1** child is presumed positive in the hospital
- **7** children in foster homes are presumed positive

## Staff:

- **40** staff in CCIs have tested positive

# Initial Placement and Replacements

**A child move may be necessary to sustain and protect life and therefore, may continue during the health crisis.**



## Caseworker Responsibilities:

Prior to each move of a child into foster care, caseworkers will:

- Inform the caregiver of child's health status.
- Screen all household members in the child's current home and the home they are going to.
- Notify the child's parents immediately about any health concerns related to COVID-19.
- Check on child's health status regularly during their time in foster care and seek medical attention immediately when necessary.

## Parent Responsibilities:

- Follow all guidance for preventing the spread of germs in your home.
- Follow the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Safe orders.
- Stay informed and involved in your child's health status and health care.
- If your child was recently placed in temporary care, notify your caseworker of the child's health status and the health status of your household members. Update the caseworker of any relevant changes in health status for household members.
- Inform the caseworker if illness may interfere with scheduled contact with your child.

# Notification & Best Practices

## Maintain Safety for Yourself and Your Household Member:

- Monitor for symptoms for all household members:
  - Cough
  - Fever
  - Shortness of Breath
  - Sore Throat
- Follow CDC guidelines, state and local guidance to maintain health and safety of yourself and your household members.
- Call your doctor if you or another household member develops symptoms.

## If Your Child Displays Symptoms:

- Your child's temporary caregiver and caseworker will ensure your child's doctor is contacted if your child develops symptoms.
- You will be contacted by your child's caseworker with updates regarding your child's health status.



## If Someone in Your Home is Sick:

- [What to do if you are sick](#)
- Keep sick person away from others in the household as much as possible. Use a separate bedroom and bathroom if available.
- Ensure the sick person remains at home, except when medical care is needed.
- Wash hands frequently for 20 seconds with warm water.
- Regularly disinfect surfaces that are touched often.

# Visits

- Parent – Child Contact
- Sibling Contact
- Parent – Caseworker Visits
- Temporary Caregiver– Caseworker Visits

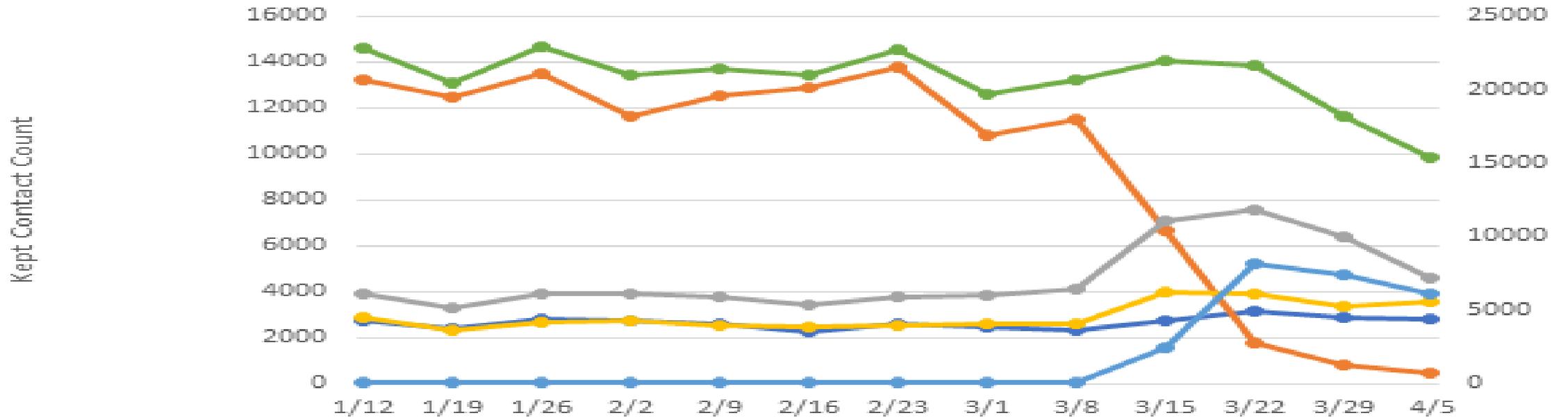


## **Family contact is critical to:**

- Maintain family connections and bonds.
  - Lessen trauma.
  - Help end a child's time in foster care as quickly as possible.
  - Talk about concerns and answer questions.
- 
- To comply with the Governor's Executive Order, in-person visits are not able to occur at this time. This order is currently in place until April 30th but may be extended.
  - All contact should occur using phone calls, texts, FaceTime, Skype, or other technology.
  - Caseworkers will work compassionately with families to come up with ways to have as much contact as possible.

# Visits Cont'd

(All) BSC/(All) County/(All) District/(All) Agency/Foster Care Program/(All) Contact Type



	1/12	1/19	1/26	2/2	2/9	2/16	2/23	3/1	3/8	3/15	3/22	3/29	4/5
ELECTRONIC MAIL	2738	2392	2804	2717	2568	2218	2560	2434	2321	2739	3130	2878	2808
FACE TO FACE	13254	12466	13472	11662	12521	12885	13807	10793	11514	6658	1799	819	458
TELEPHONE	3890	3286	3920	3884	3792	3391	3800	3868	4132	7052	7566	6374	4564
TEXT	2883	2335	2688	2709	2541	2430	2520	2591	2604	3995	3937	3368	3568
VIDEO CONFERENCE	13	17	22	18	24	33	39	27	63	1557	5185	4760	3930
Grand Total	22778	20496	22906	20990	21446	20957	22726	19713	20634	22001	21617	18199	15328

# Continuation of Services

## Medical:

- Many doctors can address medical concerns without a face-to-face visit.
- Over the phone doctor visits are covered under Medicaid.

## Dental:

- Most dentist appointments have stopped. If your child experiences dental pain, their temporary caregiver or caseworker will contact the dentist for treatment options.

## Mental Health:

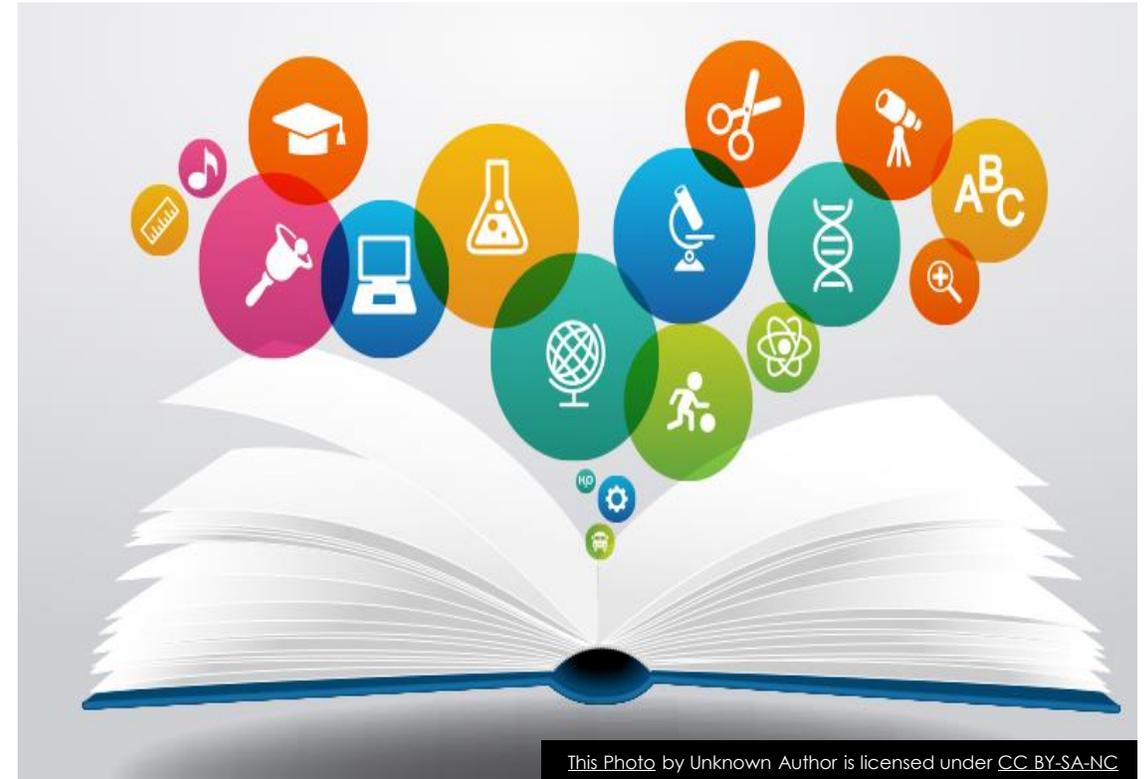
- Most mental health appointments will continue using telemedicine (over the phone).
- Community Mental Health services are available to provide essential services and in a crisis. Each CMH has an access and crisis number.
- Most providers are continuing to provide substance use disorder services.

Check with your assigned caseworker and service providers about how to continue participation in recommended services.



# Education Resources

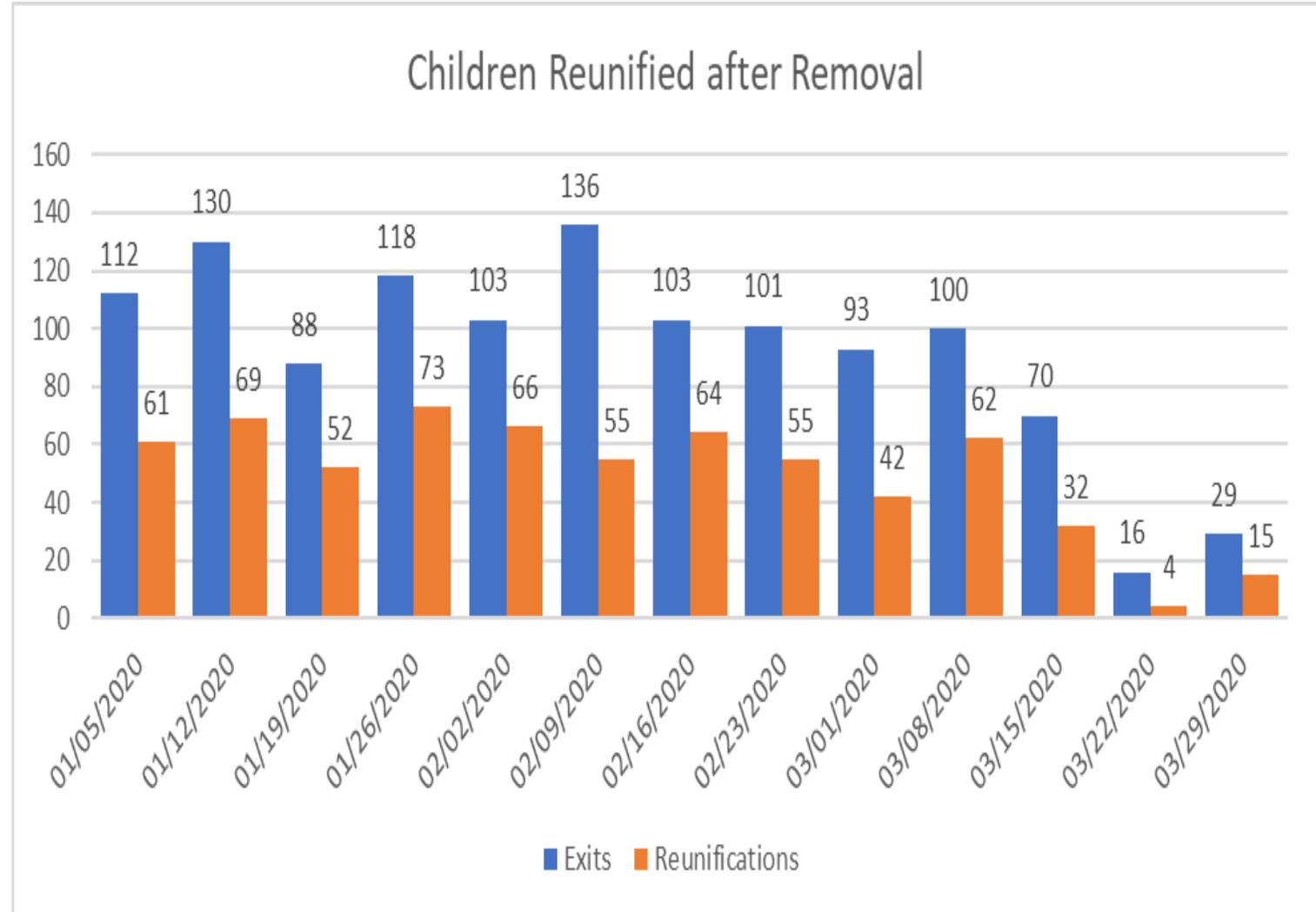
- The Michigan Department of Education has released [COVID-19 Education and Information Resources](#) online to assist local school districts, educators and families.
- [Executive Order 2020-35](#) outlines the provision of K-12 education during the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.



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# Reunification

- The rate of reunification has recently decreased, likely due to concerns related to COVID-19 (service interruption, court closures, rapid changes in processes, decreased in-person contact, etc.)
- When reunification is the plan, all efforts to return a child home must continue. Plans for reunification should not be postponed due to COVID-19.
- If the court approves based on case progress, children will be returned home as soon as possible.
- MDHHS is actively working to ensure any barriers to reunification are addressed so children can return home as soon as possible.



# Legal

- This provides information about each circuit court operations as of March 31<sup>st</sup>:  
<https://www.michbar.org//generalinfo/CourtLAOs>
- Partnered with SCAO on training for judges and referees focused on utilizing technology to hold virtual proceedings.



# Additional Information & Resources



## Visitation

- Successful Video Visits with Young Children:  
<https://www.nccdglobal.org/blog/successful-video-visits-young-children>
- Virtual Parent Time:  
[https://www.academia.edu/9484896/Virtual Parent Time Handout](https://www.academia.edu/9484896/Virtual_Parent_Time_Handout)

## Parent & Legal Guardian Letters (3/20 & 3/31) Resources and Tips for Parents and Caregivers

[https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971\\_7117\\_7166---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_7117_7166---,00.html)

## Housing

- [Executive Order 2020-19](#) provides protection from eviction during this time.

## Warm Line for Mental Health Needs

- Operates 7 days/week 10am – 2am; 888-733-7753
- Connects individuals with certified peer support specialists who have lived experiences with behavioral health concerns, trauma, or personal crises.

MI Bridges

[www.michigan.gov/mibridges](http://www.michigan.gov/mibridges)



Apply for Benefits using a simple and easy to understand application



Explore local resources and save them to your MI Bridges profile



View detailed benefit information and print letters sent from MDHHS



Manage your MDHHS case, report changes, renew benefits, and upload documents to your case



Access MI Bridges in English, Spanish, or Arabic from your phone or computer

### Need help using MI Bridges?

Visit [www.michigan.gov/mibridges](http://www.michigan.gov/mibridges) and click on Help to find local navigators, answers to common questions, and how to contact the MI Bridges help desk.



# Questions & Answers

- How will COVID-19 affect court cases? Will they go to virtual?
- Since parents are only allowed phone or video contact with children, what if my phone bill can't be paid and my phone is shut off?
- Why can't face-to-face parenting time be considered on a case by case basis?
- How will the extended Stay at Home Orders impact children and families in the reunification process?
- How does an executive order by the Governor impact court orders?

# Questions & Answers

- How can the best interest and/or safety of our children be observed when kids are not allowed to be seen and MDHHS workers are not physically checking up on them? Are there other alternatives that would serve the best interests of our children?
- What can be done to improve visits if the stay at home order extends past April 30th? How can I improve and increase parenting time during this time? Are there any resources available to me to make video visitation more accessible?
- Is anybody from MDHHS or the courts seeing the children face to face?
- How are children's mental health needs being addressed during this time?