

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**.
- **Watch the Live Event Later**
 - Once the live event is over, you can still watch the recording using the same link.



Children's Services Agency: COVID-19 Updates Foster Parents and Relative Caregivers

April 30, 2020

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

Agenda

- Prior information distributed
- Michigan COVID-19 data and tracking
- Case contacts data
- Visits (allowance and guidance)
- Fostering Forward guest
- Rapid reunification and prevention efforts
- Court hearings
- Education
- Family well-being
- Commonly requested information



Prior Information Distributed

- A link to prior letters, resources and tips, the 4/14/20 Town Hall PowerPoint and child welfare staff guidance is available [here](#).
- The previous PowerPoint contains information regarding:
 - Initial child placement and replacement
 - Visits
 - Best practices for staying healthy
 - Notification requirements for when a child or household member is sick.
 - Respite and Travel
 - Continuation of Services
 - Childcare
 - Payments
 - Education Resources
 - Permanency/Reunification
 - Legal
 - Additional Resources



**Please note that information from the 4/14/20 PowerPoint may now be outdated.*

Michigan COVID-19 Data

Statewide Totals as of 4/30/2020:

- Total Confirmed Cases: 41,379
- Total COVID-19 Deaths: 3,789

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

- Total Confirmed: 31,090 approximately 75%
- Total COVID-19 Deaths: 3,269 approximately 86%

HAVE HIGHER RISK FOR CORONAVIRUS?



STAY HOME.
STAY SAFE. SAVE LIVES.
MICHIGAN.GOV/CORONAVIRUS

MDHHS
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

A red triangle points upwards from the bottom right corner of the blue box.

COVID-19 Tracking

Presumed and Confirmed

as of 4/28/20

Children

Total

Presumed - 14

Positive - 12

- **Foster Home:**

Presumed – 6

Positive – 1

- **CCI:**

Presumed – 6

Positive – 9

- **Shelter:**

Presumed – 2

- **Home:**

Positive – 1

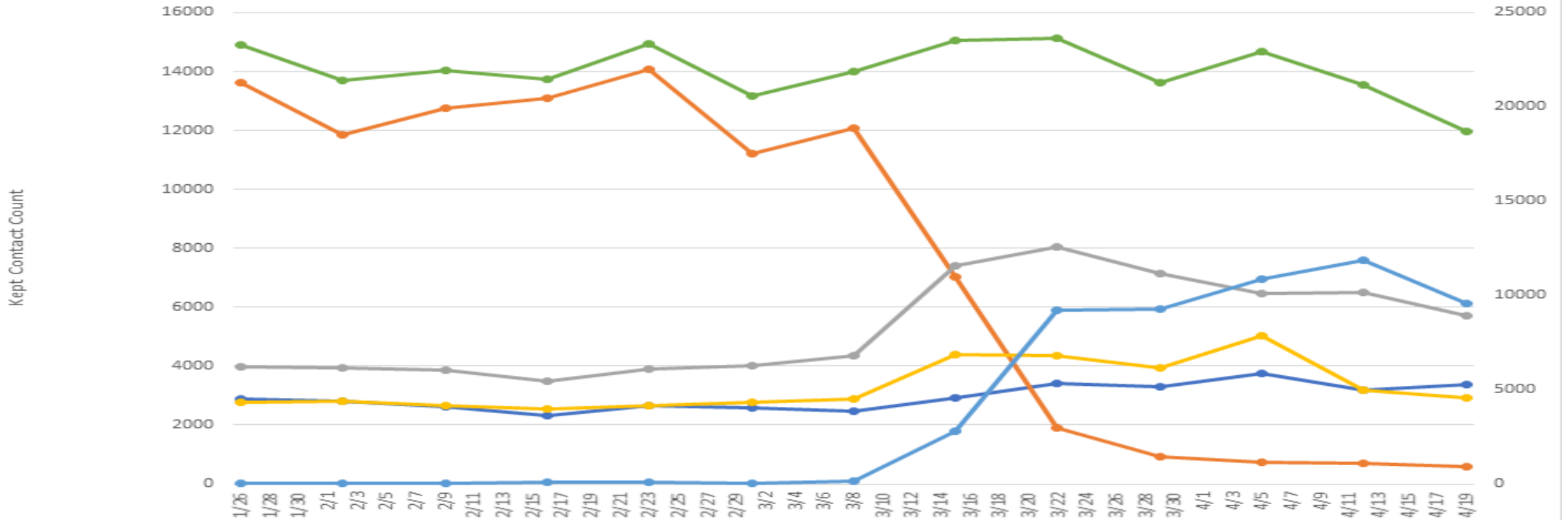
- **Hospital:**

Positive – 1

*18 children were removed from the list due to negative tests.

Data Updates: *Case Contacts*

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



	1/26	2/2	2/9	2/16	2/23	3/1	3/8	3/15	3/22	3/29	4/5	4/12	4/19
ELECTRONIC MAIL	2873	2792	2639	2305	2671	2582	2483	2930	3422	3313	3738	3200	3379
FACE TO FACE	13614	11847	12754	13105	14093	11198	12097	7041	1910	933	744	712	573
TELEPHONE	3996	3951	3861	3480	3910	4002	4339	7388	8059	7143	6453	6490	5715
TEXT	2777	2796	2649	2550	2650	2778	2869	4394	4365	3940	5049	3176	2940
VIDEO CONFERENCE	23	20	30	41	50	35	87	1801	5898	5947	6969	7600	6119
Grand Total	23283	21406	21933	21481	23374	20595	21875	23554	23654	21276	22953	21178	18726

Visits - Updated Information

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.

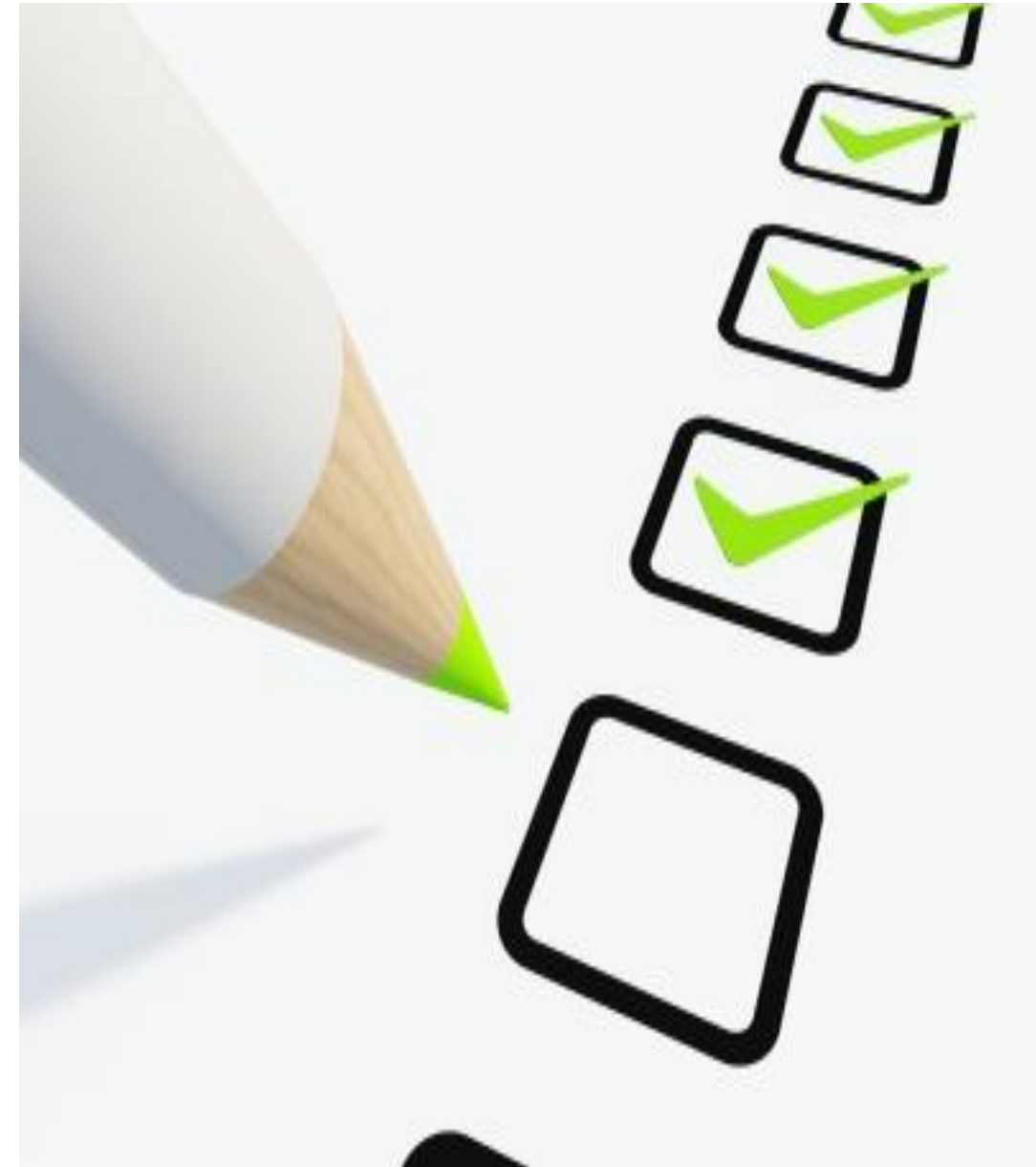


- Based on guidance in [Executive Order 2020-59](#), parent-child visits may resume if certain criteria are met (see *next slide for details*).
- No In-Person Visits
 - Sibling visits
 - Caseworker with Parent
 - Caseworker with Foster Parent/RelativeFacetime, Skype or other available technology should be used.
- No In-Person visits by caseworker with children in foster care. However, caseworkers should see children each month using virtual technology (i.e. Facetime, Skype)
- In-person contact by workers will occur if there is need to address an immediate child health or safety concern.

Parent – Child Visits

Virtual visitation remains the safest option for contact, however, in-person parenting time may occur under limited circumstances if such visits are consistent with the court order, case plan and ALL the following guidelines:

1. All participants and their household members are healthy.
 2. Screening is completed for all participants and their household members; all answers are “no.”
 3. Parents, the child placing agency and the child’s temporary caregiver all agree on the plan for visitation to safely occur.
- *Please see Letter dated 4/28/20 for further details.*



Guidance for Planning In-Person Parenting Time

- Outdoors, open windows.
- Bring own gloves, mask, and/or sanitizer, if available.
- Limit exposure to unsanitized surfaces.
- Limit large groups of people when determining location.
- Social distancing (6 feet) for adults from different households.
- Social distancing between parents and children or among siblings is not expected.
- Wash hands prior to and following the visit.
- Cover mouth with a tissue when sneezing/coughing.
- Parents and children over 2 may wear a mask or cloth face covering during the visit, if feasible.
- Change and wash clothes upon return home.



Visitation

LARA BOUSE

President & Executive Director
Fostering Forward



Rapid Reunification & Prevention Efforts

Rapid Reunification

- Partnership between MDHHS and State Court Administrative Office (SCAO).
- Uses a team approach among caseworkers, lawyers, and judges to reunify children with their parent(s) within 30-45 days.
- Family specific plans will be created to address barriers to reunification and plan for successful transition.
- Services will be provided to support the family and ensure safety.
- Proven successful in other states.

Family Outreach and Support Project

- Outreach to families who may need further support during this time.
- Offer information, increase awareness about community programs, and help applying for assistance, or navigating/accessing other helpful resources.



Court Hearings

- Many courts have changed their procedures regarding how hearings are being held. Communications regarding court changes can be found [here](#).
- The Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 2020-2 deemed Permanency Planning Hearings and 24-hour Preliminary and Emergency Removal Hearings as essential functions. Many of these hearings are being held virtually. Contact your caseworker, attorney or the court for information on how your hearings are affected.



Education During School Closures

- Continuity of Learning Plans by April 28, 2020 ([Executive Order 2020-35](#))
- Virtual Learning has started for all students. School district Foster Care Liaison <https://cepi.state.mi.us/eem/>
- Children in Child Caring Institutions (CCIs).
- Good faith effort to provide learning consistent with IEP. Rules: https://www.Michigan.gov/documents/mde/MDE-OSE_GuidanceIDEA-MARSE_Covid-19_685879_7.PDF
- [Educator's Guide to Supporting the Social and Emotional Needs of Children](#)
- Children who change homes should remain in school they attended prior to the move.
- Reassess Determination of Care (DOC) if needed (no reduction).
- Pandemic - EBT Bridge Cards (free/reduced lunch) www.lunchapp.com



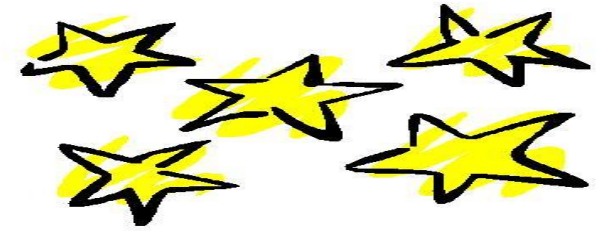
Family Well-being

MDHHS has developed a [Family Well-being Guide](#) that contains contact information for a variety of resources that may be helpful for families during this time, including:

- General Support
- Financial & Other Assistance
- Food & Nutrition
- Housing
- Child Care
- Crisis & Safety Support
- Substance Use

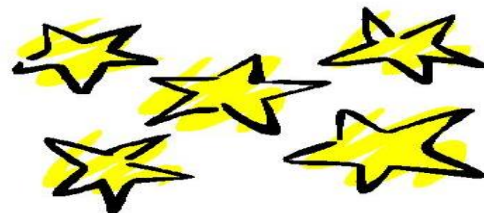


Foster Parent Recognition



Christina K. is an Ottawa County foster parent. She and her husband, Tim, have been fostering since 2012 and specialize in caring for children with significant medical needs. Christina graciously donated homemade adult and child face masks to Ottawa County MDHHS and their families in the hopes of keeping essential staff safe while they continue to ensure the safety of children and families in the community. Christina and her family are a wonderful asset to Ottawa County.

Thank you, Christina!



Commonly Requested Information

- **Child Medical/Dental Appointments:** Health providers are limiting care to persons with emergency health needs. MDHHS is not requiring children in foster care to attend well child visits or received routine immunizations during the Stay Home Stay Safe order. Many doctors are conducting medical appointments, including well child visits, using telehealth services. Some appointments may be rescheduled depending on the individual child's needs. Caregivers with specific concerns about the health or medical needs of children in their care should contact the child(ren)'s caseworker.
- **Payment Issues:** Payment delays are not expected as a result of COVID-19. You can email MDHHS-fostercarepayments@michigan.gov to quickly resolve payment issues.
- **Determination of Care:** Your DOC payments may be reassessed but will not be lowered as a result of COVID-19.
- **Childcare:** Please visit the [Child Development and Care site](#) for information. You may contact the call center at 1-866-990-3227.
- **Benefits:** Visit the [MI Bridges site](#) for information on benefits and how to apply.
- If you have another question and are unsure where to start, ask your caseworker for guidance.

