



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ROBERT GORDON
DIRECTOR

March 31, 2020

Dear Parents,

Effective 3/24/20, Governor Whitmer's [Executive Order 2020-21](#) temporarily suspends activities that are not required to sustain or protect life. This means in-person parenting time and sibling visits at residential facilities may not occur unless a court order requires it and it can be safely facilitated based on required screening outlined in [Executive Order 2020-7](#). This restriction will be in place until 4/13/20; MDHHS will revisit this restriction at that time and will resume in-person family contact as soon as possible.

Please know that we did not make this determination lightly. We understand how critically important it is for you to maintain contact with your child, especially during this difficult time. When in-person visits cannot occur, facility staff will work with you to arrange phone calls and utilize technology, such as Skype, FaceTime, or Zoom, to allow as much contact with your child as possible.

Your child's health, well-being, and treatment remain our top priority. Resources and strategies to continue to provide necessary services for your child have been distributed to our contracted residential providers and can be found at the following link: [COVID-19 Response-Guidance for Congregate Care Settings](#).

I encourage you to regularly continue checking <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, general questions regarding COVID-19 can be directed to the statewide hotline (1-888-535-6136), open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or to COVID19@michigan.gov.

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

Sincerely,

Joo

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