



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

ROBERT GORDON  
DIRECTOR

March 31, 2020

Dear Parents,

This provides an update to the letter that was issued to you on 3/20/20. 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 visits with your child are not permitted at this time. 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. Note: Limited exceptions may be made if there is risk of severe psychological harm to the child if in-person visits do not occur. Exceptions must be approved by the Executive Director of the Children's Services Agency.

Please know that we did not make this determination lightly. MDHHS understands how important it is for you to maintain contact with your child, especially at this difficult time. Your caseworker will work to arrange phone calls and utilize technology, such as Skype, FaceTime, or Zoom, to allow as much contact with your child as possible. Although these alternatives are not the same as in person visits, we believe they are critical to ensure the safety and welfare of all Michiganders including you, your children, our staff, and our resource families.

Your child's health and well-being remain our top priority. Resources and strategies to provide emotional support for your child during this time have been distributed to your child's caregiver and can be found at the following link: [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/COVID-19\\_Resources\\_and\\_Tips\\_for\\_Caregivers\\_684823\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/COVID-19_Resources_and_Tips_for_Caregivers_684823_7.pdf).

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](mailto:COVID19@michigan.gov).

Thank you for your continued patience as we work through this 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,

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