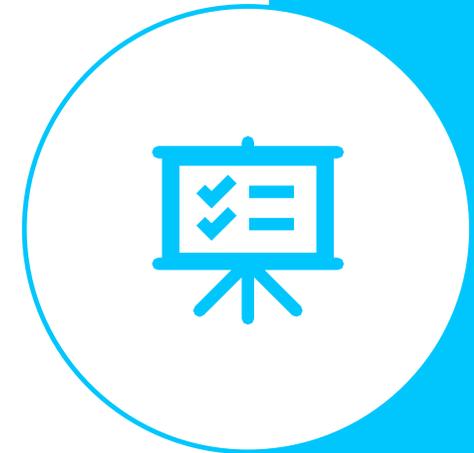


Live Event Info.

- **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 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 & Travel
- Continuation of Services
- Caregiver Survey of Needs
- Education
- Childcare
- Payments
- Permanency
- Legal
- Additional 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

Allowance:

Court-ordered placement and replacement of children may be considered essential to sustain and protect life and may continue, if necessary, during the health crisis.



Caseworker Responsibilities:

Prior to each placement/replacement 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 caregiver immediately about any health concerns related to COVID-19 they need to be aware of.

Caregiver Responsibilities:

Prior to a child coming into or leaving your foster home:

- Follow all guidance for preventing the spread of germs in your home.
- Follow the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Safe orders.
- Ensure you understand the child's current health status and things you can do to frequently monitor the health of household members.
- Inform the caseworker at the earliest point possible if anyone in your household is sick.

Notification & Best Practices

Maintain Safety & Watch for Symptoms:

- 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 the child in your care.

If Symptoms Occur:

- Call the child's doctor and caseworker if the child in your care develops symptoms.
- Call your doctor if you or another household member develops symptoms.



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

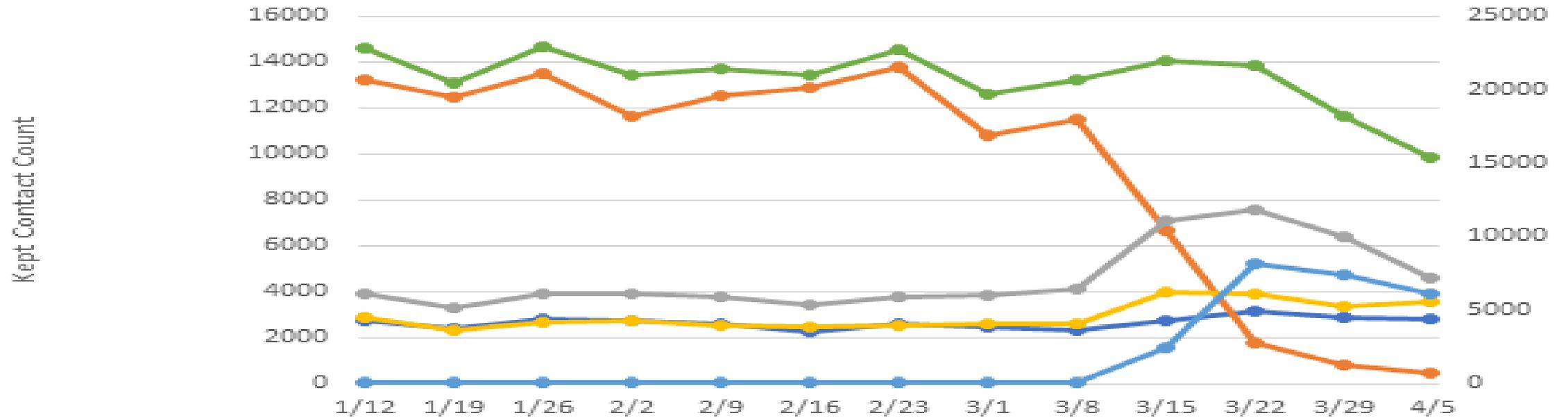


Family contact is critical to:

- 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.
 - 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

Respite and Travel

Respite:

Respite plans should be suspended until at least April 30, 2020, unless the respite care is needed due to an immediate health or safety concern or to preserve a child's placement that is at risk of disruption.

Travel:

Travel should be avoided until at least April 30, 2020, unless determined to be necessary (i.e. reunification, court order, medical care), or an allowable circumstance in the Governor's [Executive Order 2020-21](#).



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 the child in your care experiences dental pain, 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.



Caregiver Survey of Needs

3/25/20- 4/6/20; N= 2,145

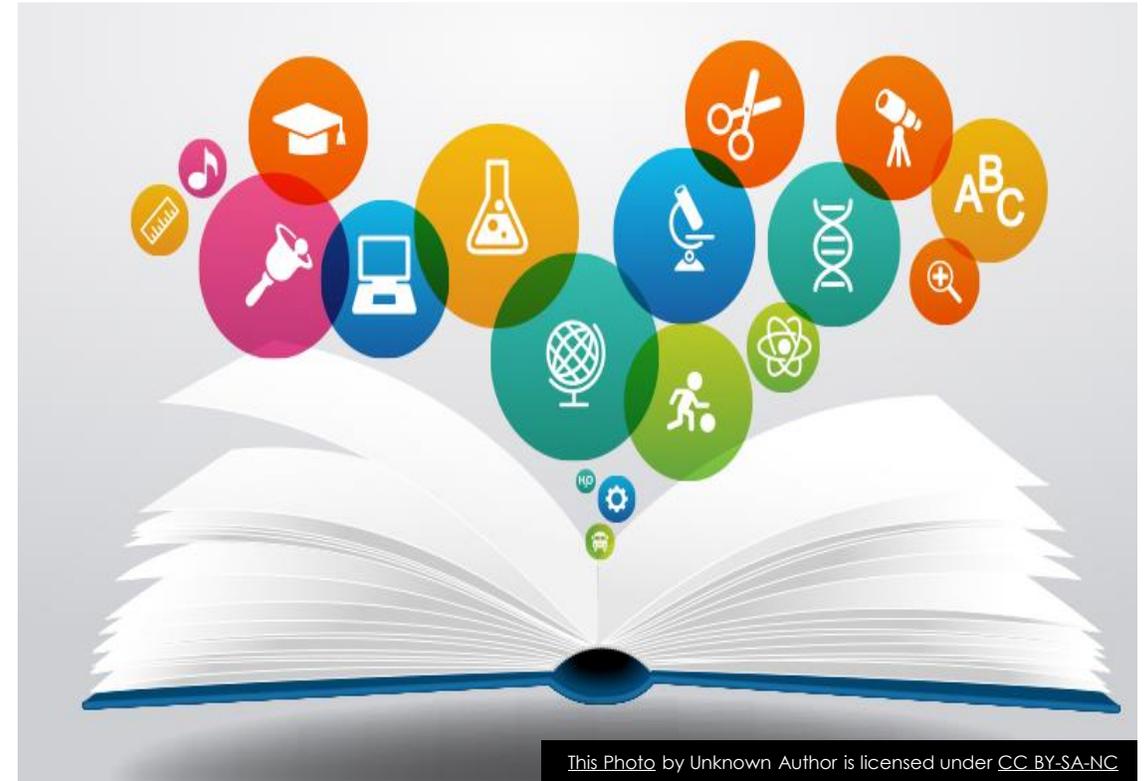
- Statewide, 61.4% (1,316 caregivers) indicated they did not need any additional support.
- 38.6% (829 caregivers) identified an area where more support or assistance was needed.
- The top three identified needs were:
 - Financial Assistance- 27.5%
 - Child Care- 27.4%
 - Access to Groceries and Needed Household Items- 22.9%

Needed Supports or Assistance



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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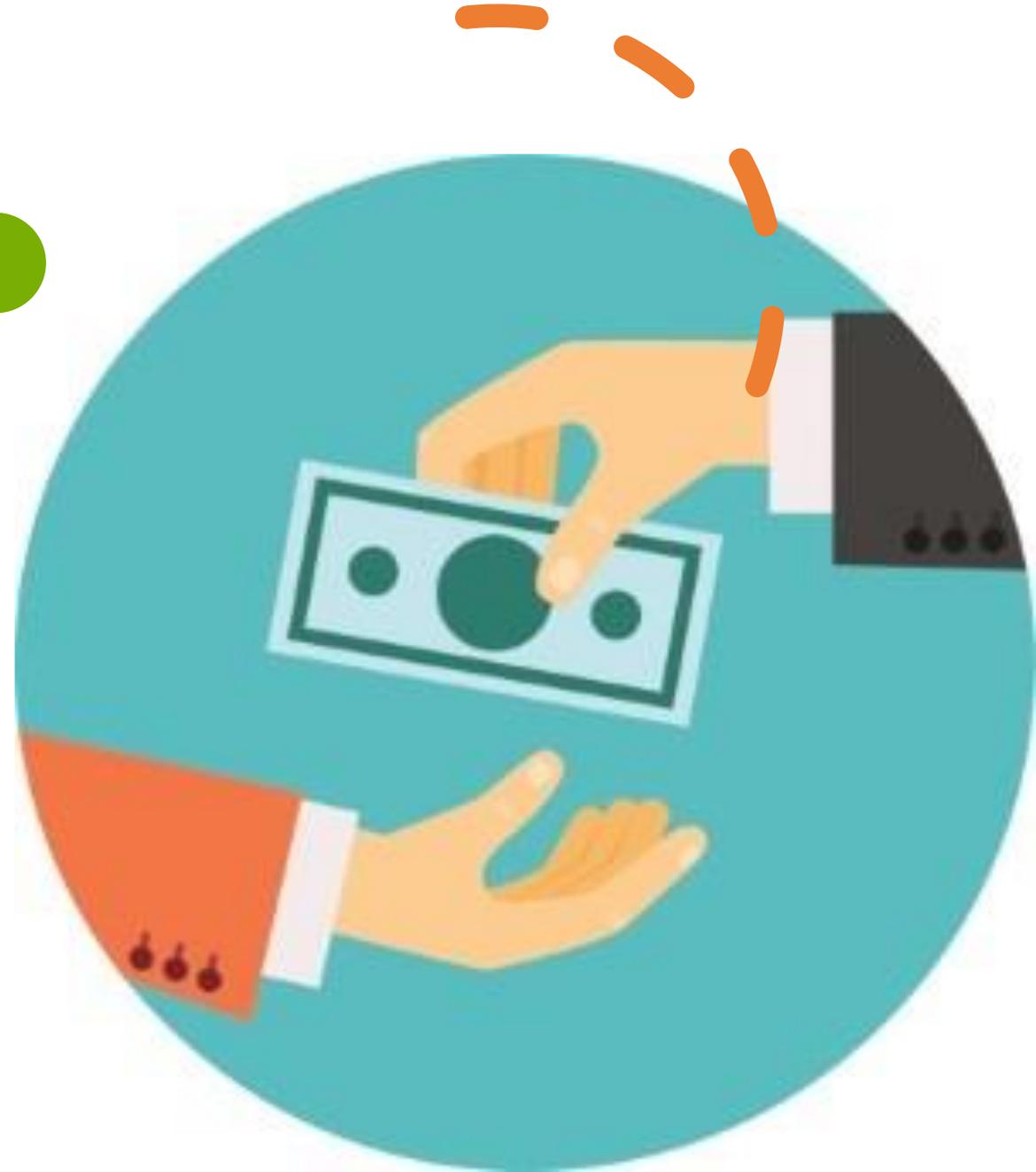
Childcare

- Parents and caregivers will not need to pay their portion of childcare payments from March 16 to April 30.
- Contact your childcare provider about payments.
- You can also obtain more detailed information about childcare payments at Michigan.gov/childcare or by calling the Child Development and Care center at 866-990-3227.



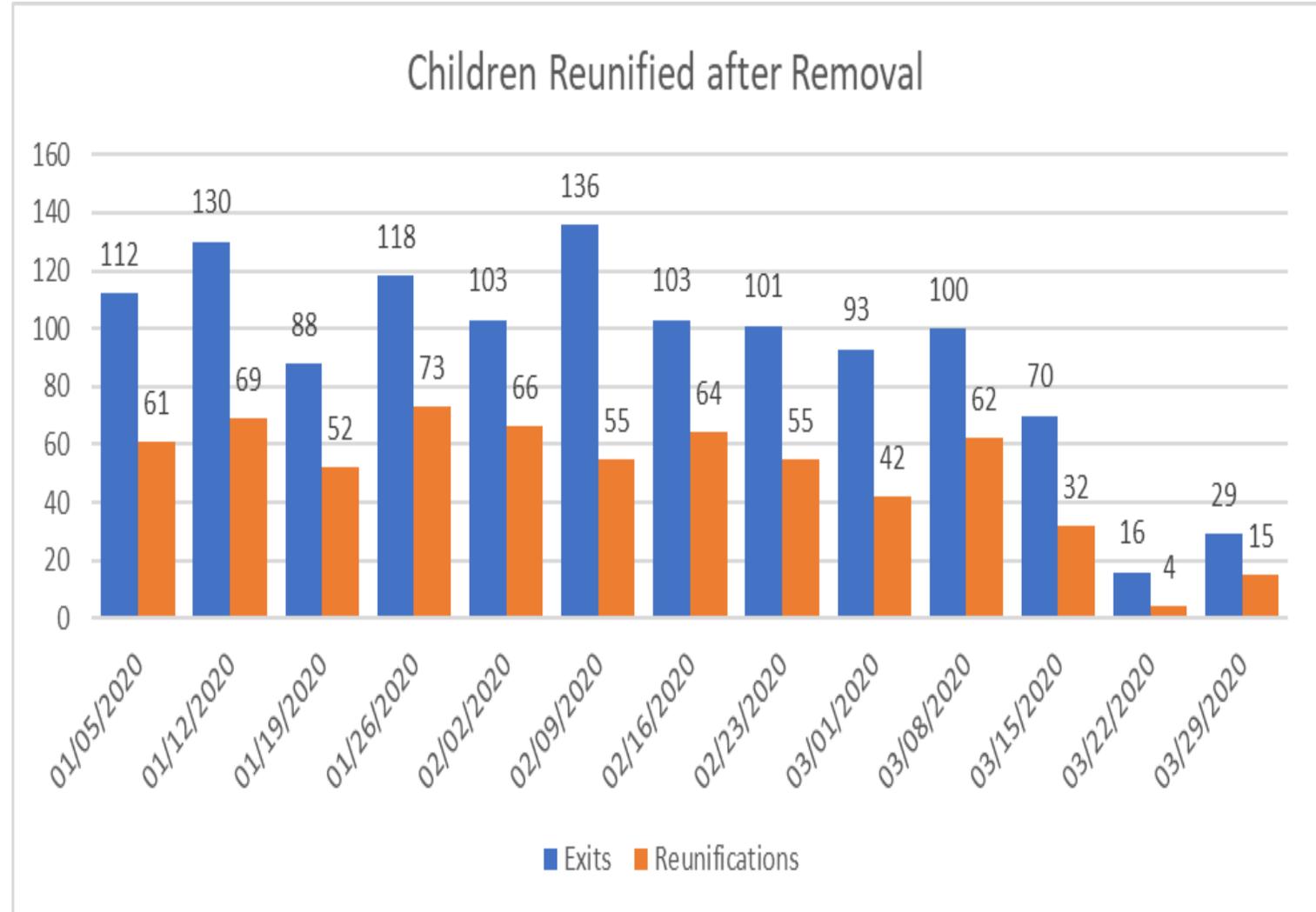
Payments

- We do not expect any payment disruptions to foster parents or relatives during COVID-19.
- Contact your caseworkers immediately about payment concerns.
- You can also email MDHHS-fostercarepayments@michigan.gov to quickly resolve payment issues.
- We will not decrease your Determination of Care (DOC) payments during the COVID-19 emergency.



Permanency (Reunification, Guardianship, Adoption)

- 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.)
- All efforts towards permanency must continue and should not be postponed due to COVID-19.
- MDHHS is actively working to ensure any barriers towards permanency as a result of COVID-19 are addressed.



Legal

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



Additional 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

Letters for Caregivers (3/19 & 3/27)

Resources and Tips for Parents & Caregivers

- https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_7117_7166---,00.html

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



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 and click on Help to find local navigators, answers to common questions, and how to contact the MI Bridges help desk.



Questions & Answers



- The level of foster parent/caregiver activity has probably changed for some children, for example in Education due to the new distance learning plans for all schools. Is it appropriate for caseworkers to reassess the DOC level?
- Will there be any additional financial assistance for foster parents to help ensure children are getting everything they need during this time of financial strain?
- How are court hearings proceeding while the Stay Home, Stay Safe order is in place? Can foster parents participate/observe hearings if carried out via video conferencing?
- How does no call/no show during the video parenting time figure into the parenting plan?
- What happens in cases when parents have lost housing and employment? Will the children remain in limbo until these issues can be resolved?
- How is the impact to children being considered as MDHHS works to address concerns related to COVID-19?

Questions & Answers Cont'd

- Is anything being done to offset the cost of feeding children under age 5 who qualify for free lunches at daycare/preschool? I understand that children ages 5-18 are getting EBT benefits, but not younger children.
- Can you please clarify what respite policies should look like now? Are families able to utilize other foster parents for respite care?
- How long or under what conditions will the option for electronic visits be in place? Is it only while a stay home order is in place?
- Will families be given at least 14 days notice before face-to-face visits resume? If that cannot be guaranteed, will there be flexibility in the timeframe foster families have to give in order to have a child removed in order to protect their own family?
- Is there any flexibility to ensure childcare can be provided when both parents are considered essential and must work out of the home? For example, can temporary caregivers move into the home for the time-being?

