

Good Afternoon Residential, Crisis, and Homeless Youth Providers,

In light of the rapidly changing conditions, please be advised this information is subject to change and we will make every effort to be in regular communication with you to provide updates.

First, thank you all for your time and commitment to keeping Maine's youth and their families safe during this difficult time. As a precaution and to ensure the safety of youth and children, Residential Providers and Crisis Stabilization Units may choose to pause face to face, in-person visitation within your facilities.

It is imperative that youth and children have an opportunity to have regular contact with their family members, however. To ensure that youth and families remain connected, it is expected that providers will continue to ensure that contact occur through telephone, FaceTime, Skype or any other teleconferencing venue, to offer contact when possible. We recognize that anxiety may be high for youth and families and some routines have been broken, thus contact is especially critical. We appreciate your commitment to keeping everyone healthy.

If facilities are unable to meet licensing requirements or experience a staffing crisis, please reach out to your respective OCFS Licensing Specialist to develop a plan, or to request a temporary waiver of licensing requirements.

Second, I am attaching the most recent guidance provided by OCFS, as well as a link to the Maine CDC for updates regarding COVID-19 <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/coronavirus.shtml>

Below are additional resources from SAMHSA and CDC. The first is SAMHSA's resource on talking to children about infectious disease outbreaks. The second is CDC's general FAQ sheet on coronavirus. The third is preparation guidance to healthcare facilities.

Talking to children during infectious disease outbreaks:

[https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MEHHS/2020/03/02/file\\_attachments/1390164/talking%20to%20children%20during%20infectious%20disease%20outbreaks.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MEHHS/2020/03/02/file_attachments/1390164/talking%20to%20children%20during%20infectious%20disease%20outbreaks.pdf)

2019-ncov-factsheet:

[https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MEHHS/2020/03/02/file\\_attachments/1390166/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MEHHS/2020/03/02/file_attachments/1390166/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf)

Steps healthcare facilities can take now to prepare for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/steps-to-prepare.html>

Additional CDC materials are available at the following links:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/coronavirus.shtml>

Thank you for your commitment to Maine's children and youth.

Regards,

Dr. Todd A. Landry

Director, Office of Child & Family Services

