



Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families

DCYF Foster Care Agencies 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Email to Foster Care Agencies - March 15, 2020

Good afternoon,

We are sending this notification out to our Private Foster Care Agencies so that you may be informed and best able to assist families with day care.

As you may have heard, earlier today Governor Raimondo made the difficult decision to advise that all childcare centers across the state of Rhode Island close this week to help contain the spread of COVID-19. Families should stay home if they are able. If you must leave your home for work, please use your family, friends, neighbors and other natural supports to provide support for the children in your care. The intent of closing schools and childcare programs is to help slow the spread of COVID-19, so large groups should be avoided.

We understand that childcare and school closures may present enormous challenges for our families. The following organizations have wide networks of foster parent peer supports, and we encourage you to connect with them during this time. Also, our sincere thanks to all our families in these networks who have offered to help babysit, run errands, or provide other supports to families in need! These groups are great ways to connect these supports:

The Village for RI Foster and Adoptive Families

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thevillageri123>

Email: Admin@rivillage.org

Phone: [401-481-5483](tel:401-481-5483)

Foster Forward

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FosterForward/>

Adoption Rhode Island

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AdoptionRI/>

Twitter: @AdoptionRI

Phone: 401-865-6000

Email: dallen@adoptionri.org or elyon@adoptionri.org

If you have case specific concerns, please contact your child's Caseworker directly. We will be in contact throughout the week with more information.

As a reminder, if a child in your care is presenting with any symptoms please:

- Call the youth's primary care Physician and describe the youth's symptoms. Follow the directions given by the Physician.
- E-mail and call the youth's Caseworker AND their Supervisor, with details of the youth's symptoms and the Physician's recommendations. If you need to reach DCYF outside of normal business hours, please call our hotline at 1-800-RI-CHILD.
- Provide a daily update on the youth's status to the Caseworker and Supervisor.

If a youth in your care tests positive for COVID-19), you must contact the Department of Health 401-222-5577. The Department of Health will provide guidance on isolation and quarantine. After you speak with DOH, please contact the youth's Caseworker and their Supervisor so we can work closely to support you.

As always If you have any questions, please let us know. Thank you for your commitment to our families.

Sincerely,

Deb Buffi

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