DCYF Contracted Programs
2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update
March 19, 2020

Distance Learning Begins Monday, March 23

The Governor announced yesterday that, for the next two weeks (March 23 to April 3), all public K-12 schools will follow distance learning plans. After those two weeks, the State will evaluate and decide on next steps for the rest of the school year. Please speak to your youth about their readiness for distance learning – do they have the Chromebooks, books, or worksheets needed? Please ensure that the youth in your care are getting everything they need from their schools.

Guidance on Medical Clearances for Children and Youth

If the child has been removed from home, the Department will have the child examined in accordance with Department Child Protective Services protocols and COVID-19 screening protocols.

Directives for Youth Returning from AWOL

In addition to the standard procedures after locating an AWOL youth, the Department will complete the COVID-19 screening questions to determine the level of necessary precaution, in accordance with the RIDOH screening tool, included below. If the youth’s answers warrant a possible exposure to COVID-19, or if the youth is exhibiting flu-like symptoms, Department staff will follow the guidance below involving youth who we suspect may be infected by COVID-19.

If the youth does not indicate possible exposure to COVID-19 and is not exhibiting flu-like symptoms, the Department will return the youth to placement. The provider must call the Aubin Center at 401-444-4000 by the next business day after a youth has returned to placement from an AWOL status.

- Call 401-444-3996 or 401-444-4000, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For emergency cases—either physical abuse, when sexual abuse has occurred within 72 hours, or if there are immediate safety concerns, the provider should call the office during regular business hours or the page operator after hours. You may be directed to Hasbro Children’s Hospital’s emergency department.

- Call the page operator after business hours at 401-444-5611 or the Rhode Island Hospital main number 401-444-4000 and ask for the Aubin Center physician on call.

The on-call pediatrician will determine if the youth is appropriate for a telemedicine medical exam, or if the youth should be seen in person at the Panda clinic.
Directives for Youth Exhibiting Symptoms

As a reminder, below are directives to use for youth exhibiting symptoms.

For providers who manage residential or congregate care services – if a youth in your care is presenting with any symptoms please:

- The youth **should be asked to put on a mask and staff should move them to an isolated area of the building.**
- 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.
- If necessary, the physician will contact the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH). 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 in a congregate care or substitute care setting (including foster care):

- The provider must contact the Rhode Island Department of Health 401-222-2577.
- RIDOH will provide guidance on isolation and quarantine.
- After you speak with RIDOH, please call the Child Abuse Hotline to report the situation so we can coordinate a quarantine/isolation plan to support you, consistent with the recommendations of RIDOH.

**Update on Visitation**

As a precaution and to ensure the safety of our staff, providers and families, **we are canceling all family visitation through March 27.** This includes family visitation at the Training School, at DCYF offices, visits arranged by foster parents, and our contracted visitation and congregate care programs. We will assess the situation on a week-to-week basis and provide updates to staff when available.

**Resources**

- The Children’s Bureau has created a [website](#) specifically for child welfare systems who are managing services through COVID-19.
- Many local cities and towns are providing “grab and go” lunches and dinners for students under the age of 18. The Rhode Island Department of Health has a [full list](#) of all sites.
- The Rhode Island Department of Health’s COVID-19 Hotline: 401-222-8022
- Attached, please find copies of the federal Family First Coronavirus Response Act and a fact sheet on the Emergency Paid Sick Leave provision of this Act.
- Attached, please find guidance on how to clean your agency’s vehicles while transporting your staff and youth.
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Screening Form

Exposure Section:

1. Has anyone in the household been diagnosed with COVID-19.
   
   YES  |  NO  If “YES,” details:

2. Has anyone in the household been told to quarantine yourself by a public health authority?
   
   YES  |  NO  If “YES,” details:

3. Has anyone in the household been in close contact (less than 6 feet for a prolonged period of time) with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?
   
   YES  |  NO  If “YES,” details:

Travel History:

4. Has anyone in the household traveled anywhere internationally in the last 14 days?
   
   YES  |  NO  If “YES,” details:

Symptom History:

5. Does anyone in the household currently have:
   
   ☐ Fever (100.4)  ☐ Cough  ☐ Shortness of breath  ☐ Body Aches