

## 2020 COVID-19 Foster Care Action Plan

To our Foster Care and Birth Families,

With recent reports on the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), it is our priority at Lawrence Hall to ensure that our staff understand the impact the virus may have on the children and families we serve.

The following is the action plan we have implemented in our Foster Care Program:

- 1) Foster Care has notified all Foster Families by phone, email and on our website about the COVID-19 virus and the CDC recommended universal precautions to prevent contracting or spreading the COVID-19 virus.
- 2) All licensed and unlicensed Foster Homes have been instructed to follow the CDC recommended universal precautions.
- 3) Foster Care will request that all families notify their caseworker if a youth, child or infant in care has flu like systems or have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.
- 4) If a foster parent reports a youth, child or infant in care exhibits flu-like systems they will be instructed to contact their primary care provider to determine if further medical attention is needed.
- 5) Foster Parents must keep caseworkers and supervisors informed immediately of any medical attention for a youth, child, or infant of any flu-like systems or exposure to the COVID-19 virus.
- 6) Foster Parents must immediately notify their caseworker or supervisor of any household member being exposed or testing positive to the COVID-19 virus.
- 7) If exposed to the COVID-19 virus, Foster Parents will be instructed to quarantine any youth, child or infant in their care as instructed by medical providers.
- 8) If any household member is exposed to the COVID-19 virus, Foster Parents will be instructed to quarantine themselves and all household members as instructed by medical providers.
- 9) In the event a positive test for the COVID-19 is confirmed DCFS will be notified immediately and a Significant Event will be submitted.
- 10) If their caseworker cannot be contacted, the Supervisor, Program Manager or Vice President of Foster Care needs to be notified by phone.
- 11) Caseworkers or Supervisors will reach out to all birth parents notifying them of the COVID-19 virus and the recommended universal precautions to prevent contracting or spreading the COVID-19 virus.

- 12) Caseworkers and Supervisors will make determinations regarding the need for home visits, parent visits, sibling visits, court dates and any appointments for children, youth and families.
- 13) Parent/Child visits that are normally held in the community will be on hold until *tentatively* March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.
- 14) Parent/Child visits that are normally held in the foster home facilitated by parent and foster parent will continue. Your case worker will continue to communicate with you on how the visits are going.
- 15) Notifications of any parent/child visits that have been suspended will be informed by phone or in writing.
- 16) Caseworkers and Supervisors will conduct check-ins with families via phone or FaceTime at least weekly to check in on families for health issues, childcare arrangements and any general concerns during this Action Plan.
- 17) If any youth, child, infant, household member or employee tests positive, Human Resources will be notified immediately.