

Subj: staff reminders

Date: 5.1.2020

Dear staff,

Today, Governor Holcomb announced a five-stage plan to get Indiana back on track. As essential employees, our work with Hoosier families and children continues. I appreciate your flexibility as we adapt our practice to provide the best service possible while protecting our employees and those we serve.

Full details on the governor's plan can be found at backontrack.in.gov. We will work within these guidelines within the coming weeks to develop plans to meet the needs of individual counties. I appreciate your patience as we finalize those details.

I want to take this time to provide a few important updates:

- Personal protective equipment is coming.
 - Central office will receive initial shipments and distribute these to local offices.
 - Employees should receive masks as early as next week.
 - Please continue to use homemade masks in the meantime.
- Reflective Practice Surveys (RPS) are suspended until May 31, 2020.
- In-person visits to youth in residential facilities are suspended until May 24.
 - More communication on a transition plan to face-to-face visits will be forthcoming.

Also, a few reminders:

- Employees should encourage DCS families to plan ahead for care of their children in the event key caregivers become ill.
 - Feel free to share Director Stigdon's PSA, which offers helpful ideas for preparing a family safe plan: <https://youtu.be/MUI9XtmU9M0>
- Continue to refer foster families to the Foster Parent Portal for updates: IndianaFosterCare.org.

Social distancing has presented challenges for all of us, but those on the frontlines have proven their dedication to child welfare. I have personally heard of courageous stories about staff members going above and beyond to ensure a child's safety during these tough times.

While Child Abuse Prevention Month is drawing to a close, we know this isn't just a month long campaign; it is year-long. I thank you for doing your part in ensuring the safety and well-being of Indiana children.

Sarah Sailors, MSW

Deputy Director, Field Operations

Indiana Department of Child Services