A message from Vocational Rehabilitation Services

As communities across Indiana work to monitor the evolving public health emergency around the novel (new) coronavirus or COVID-19, we want you to know that the Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation program is committed to continuing to serve our participants. We are here for you.

VR is taking steps to ensure the health and safety of participants, staff and community partners, including practicing CDC guidelines regarding hand washing, good respiratory etiquette, cleaning surfaces and social distancing to limit the spread of COVID-19.

In the interest of taking every possible measure to protect Hoosier health and safety, VR offices remain closed to the public at this time. The decision to close offices was made as the Family and Social Services Administration and state health leaders consider the best options for promoting social distancing to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Even though offices are closed, VR services continue to be provided through video phone, telephone and email. Although we are providing services in different ways, please be assured that VR services are still available at this time.

- Do you need help finding available employment opportunities during the COVID-19 pandemic?
- Are you interested in preparing now for future employment?
- Has your employer asked you to work from home and you need some support to successfully perform your job duties?

Additionally, individuals with disabilities are encouraged to continue to apply for VR services during this time. For information about the VR application process and what to expect when applying for VR during the pandemic, please click here.

To talk to a VR representative about services or general questions, learn more about VR or apply for services, contact your local VR office.

To learn more about VR, watch this video (Spanish version here), or visit us on social media.
**COVID-19 Resources**

For the latest information on the coronavirus pandemic, including symptoms, how to protect yourself, and travel advisories, visit the [CDC COVID-19 website](https://www.cdc.gov) or the [Indiana government COVID-19 information page](https://www.in.gov/coronavirus).  

Here are some tips for staying healthy during this stressful time:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- Stay home as much as possible and practice social distancing
- Avoid watching, reading or listening to news that cause you to feel anxious or distressed
- Protect yourself and be supportive to others
- Try as much as possible to maintain personal daily routines.
- Engage in healthy activities that you enjoy and find relaxing.
- Exercise regularly, keep regular sleep routines and eat healthy food
- And remember, we are all in this together.

I hope you are your families are staying safe and healthy during this time.

Best wishes,

*Theresa Koleszar*

Director, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services