



Memorandum

To: All DCF Staff

From: Commissioner Vanessa Dorantes

Date: 8/6/2020

Re: Update on Department Operations and Special Edition early Commissioner Weekly Video



The past couple of days have once again tested our resilience both personally and professionally. As of Thursday late afternoon, over 600,000 Connecticut residents were without electricity--my own was restored as we taped this video at Central Office. This significant weather episode only adds to the stressors we have all experienced over the past 6 months.

We are providing you this *Special Edition* to reinforce the need for us to support one another ---

WE REMAIN IN THIS TOGETHER => [Commissioner's Special Edition Weekly Video 8-6-2020](#)

Please contact your colleagues. Call them, check on each other ... perhaps arrange a visit to see them to determine how they are doing and if they are in need of any assistance.

Being without power makes it even more challenging to get work done. As the Everbridge notice that went out yesterday reminded us, the HELPDESK cannot assist with your home internet disruption causing the connectivity issues. If you are considering physically going into a Regional Office to work for a few days instead of teleworking, you need to secure permission to do so.

Like with HELP desk requests, please contact your supervisor to talk through the request. We have to ensure we are aware of the number potential increase in staff who will be in the buildings as that also requires notification to DAS property management

DO NOT CONSIDER GOING INTO WORK IF YOU HAVE A FEVER OR ANY OTHER CORONA VIRUS SYMPTOMS-- CONTACT A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER.

If authorized to go into our workspace, please remember hand hygiene, sanitizing and mask wearing. Please refrain from congregating with others, and limit conversations to under 15mins within 6ft to adhere to social distancing guidelines. Additional consideration for Offices see p5 of CT ReOpen sector guidance => https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DECD/Covid_Business_Recovery-Phase-2/0723Offices_C1_V3.pdf . DCF Offices remain closed to the public.

Back to our emotional well-being. We are all being stretched to and beyond our typical capacity. For all of us, the Employee Assistance Program can be accessed by dialing **1-800-252-4555** or by visiting their website: www.theEAP.com/TotalCare-EAP.

Healthy decisions are ones in which we outreach to help ourselves.



The children and families we serve may need even more support right now too. It is imperative we speak with those we serve and offer assistance both emotionally and in tangible ways. This includes our foster parents with special attention being given to those families who are caring for children with medically complex needs. Our in-home cases could use more linkages to community resources. Our youth in congregate settings also need check-ins. Please contact them as soon as possible and remain diligent in your efforts.

We hope you and your families are safe and healthy!

In next week's video, we plan to share:

1. Additional in person triage cohorts
2. Updates on Resuming Full Functioning efforts including some more definitions and timelines
3. Decision making processes regarding youth in care return to school planning



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"I do my best because I'm counting on YOU counting on me..."
m angelou