



2020 is different...for all of us
My twins are sharing their mom with the
4,057 children I am responsible for today.
Life can get complicated for moms.

Thank you to those 'mothering' in the midst
of crisis.
You are appreciated more than ever during
these times.
When separated physically from mom -- by
pandemic distance, grief or other reasons, the
emotion is profound.

Mothers are strong yet fragile
Mothers sacrifice & endure
Mothers are resilient and reassuring

My heart is heavy...
filled with appreciation for a
MOTHER'S LOVE
in whatever form it takes today ❤️

Happy Mother's Day!

During these trying times, a loving, nurturing Mother figure is so critical.

The hands of time are moving by quickly....

This past week, we celebrated **National Teachers' Week** --- those individuals who devote their lives to assisting our children not only to learn, but to grow in their understanding of themselves as unique individuals.

We are currently in the middle of **National Nurses' Week**.

How can we truly thank the individuals who are on the frontlines of a global pandemic?

A difficult decision has been made that children will not return to school this year in effort to continue safeguarding against the spread of COVID-19.

Children and families will continue to experience stress during this disruption. The **When It Builds Up, Talk It Out** campaign has established a support line at **1-833-258-5011** where parents can call to speak to a professional during these unparalleled times. This support line is also available for you: TalkItOutCT.com

Our DCF week ended with a powerful webinar entitled *The Color of COVID in CT*, **Dr Reginald Eadie, M.D., MBA President and CEO of Trinity Health Network** discussed the historical structures and current factors in our

communities which have resulted in COVID-19 disproportionately affecting our families of color. This 3rd installment of our Racial Justice Summits also included DCF specific data offered by our very own, **Susan Smith Esq.** This information will be the platform for DCF & its Statewide Racial Justice Workgroup to build strategies for post pandemic work.

Please click here for the **Commissioner's brief Mother's Day message**: [Commissioner Dorantes 'Mother's Day' Update \(5/10/20\)](#)

DCF Senior Administrators conducted tabletop exercises to start crafting recommendations to resume full agency operations. We have no timeframe yet for staff the staff who have been teleworking to physically return. In order to be fully informed in our decision making, we have formed 4 subcommittees to review aspects of our work and provide recommendations to the Executive Team. We continue to encourage you to submit ideas to our designed mailbox at DCF.COVID-19@ct.gov.

Documents containing Gov Lamont's rules for the first phase of CT's reopening have been published on the state's coronavirus website – ct.gov/coronavirus – and are available to download directly at these links:

- [Hair Salons & Barbershops](#)
- [Museums and Zoos](#) (Outdoor Only)
- [Offices](#)
- [Restaurants](#) (Outdoor Only)
- [Retail & Malls](#)

All businesses subject to these rules will be required to self-certify prior to opening on **May 20**. The certification system will be online beginning next week.



VANNESSA L. DORANTES, LMSW
COMMISSIONER
CT DEPT OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES
505 HUDSON STREET
HARTFORD, CT 06106

commissioner.dcf@ct.gov (860)550-6300

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