



In these uncertain times, I continue to be appreciative of your perseverance, commitment and dedicated service to children and families.

All of us play a valuable role in carrying out the mission of the Department while balancing the safety and health of ourselves and our families.

My gratitude is extended especially to those particular **Level 1** staff who continue to report to an office or facility which may include interacting in-person with children on treatment units and directly with families in communities. **We** recognize the challenges these circumstances present and remain focused on how **we** can ensure your wellbeing.

We have had staff leaving no stone unturned to acquire and deliver necessary personal protective equipment. Shout out to **Jaime Pinto, ISW Bpt Area Office** for coming through like a champ with a solid connect! Also, to those sewing cloth face coverings --**thanks!**

We have staff ensuring that our buildings are cleaned and terminally sanitized regularly.

We have staff who work to make sure the business processes like payments and paychecks go uninterrupted.

We are engaging with community partners who point us towards the next family in need wherever in the state that need may be -- *NEED doesn't pause on nights, weekends or holidays & neither does our HELP* ---

We have staff to help clear the way for additional testing sites to be stood up... *in the pouring rain!*

We have staff partnering with youth to facilitate continued connections with their families.

We have staff continuing legal help to ensure child safety and move permanency efforts forward.

We have staff connecting us virtually like never before.... ensuring technology distribution, trouble shooting and online learning.

We have staff continuing ongoing communication to keep you and the communities we serve, informed in many different ways.

We have staff collaborating with providers, law enforcement partners and foster families to continuously strategize ways to keep children safe and families connected to resources.

We have staff whose hearts have been broken by loss inside and outside of the pandemic's grips. **We** mourn with you.

WE HAVE STAFF RISKING THEIR OWN SAFETY IN SERVICE TO OTHERS.

That's who **we** are together **#DCF_STRONG!**

Please see my weekly video for further updates on the Department: [Commissioner's Weekly Video 4/18/20](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxzQLy7XTH4&feature=youtu.be) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxzQLy7XTH4&feature=youtu.be>)



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