



MEMORANDUM

TO: DCF All Staff
FROM: Commissioner Dorantes
DATE: March 6, 2020
SUBJECT: Update on Planning for the COVID-19 (coronavirus)

The Department of Children and Families is actively engaged in preparedness activities to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 virus. We recognize this is a time of great uncertainty and believe that clear communication will assist everyone in answering basic questions and providing additional resources.

Currently, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Connecticut. Please know that multiple times a week, senior level staff attend briefings, are provided the most updated information on a national level and coordinate plans for assistance across state agencies.

What we can do now is take simple precautions. Earlier this week, the Office of Governor Ned Lamont provided the following the guidelines which will lead to the reduction of obtaining and transmitting the virus while creating an overall healthier environment in the workplace, community and in your own home:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid shaking hands as a greeting. A simple head nod achieves the same goal.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Two websites also may be of assistance to you. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued guidelines which can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>. The Department of Public Health has also developed information which can be located at their website at ct.gov/coronavirus.

We plan to provide you consistent updates as we learn more from partners in our state and across the country.

Thank you for the work you do each and every day and for the difference you make in the lives of children and families.