

August 13, 2020

Dear Kinship and Foster Families,

The Department is grateful for the love, support and care you provide for children and families. While we are optimistic with recent improvements in COVID-19 data we know that some uncertainties still lie ahead. We are blessed with your support and commitment to meeting the needs of Arizona's most vulnerable children. Thank you!

Throughout this public health crisis the Department has made every effort to continually reassess the established directives, safety protocols and guidance to ensure they are up to date with the change in conditions in Arizona. Additionally, we have made every effort to communicate these updates to caregiver, parents, contracted service providers and our staff to do our part in reduce the spread of COVID-19 while continuing to fulfill our mission. The links are conveniently attached here for each of the relevant documents. Please continue to check dcs.az.gov/covid19 for the most up to date information:

- [In-person parenting time/visitation](#)
- [In-person contacts](#)
- [Return to school](#) (July 6th)
- [COVID-19 Testing for children in care](#) (July 17th)
- [Virtual Visitation Exception and Guidance](#) New Process begins 8/17/2020 (Aug 7th)

As the academic year begins, virtual learning and the variations between school districts have resulted in varying supports and needs among caregivers. We are here to support you, your families and the children in your care to the best of our ability. If there are barriers, access to technology or other challenges that we can assist with, please do not hesitate to contact us. The Warmline is 1-877-543-7633 Option 3 is the quickest way for you to reach a member of the team who can assist in addressing any concerns.

Again, I want to thank you for everything you do. Your commitment to serving Arizona's most vulnerable children has been ever-present prior to, during and will continue to make a difference well into the future for the children in your care.

Thank you and be safe,

Mike Faust
Director

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