

April 10, 2020

Dear Kinship, Foster and Congregate Caregivers,

I hope this letter finds you safe and in good health. As another week passes during these challenging times, my appreciation and gratitude for your contributions and commitment to children grows. Thank you for all you do and for your support of not only helping children to Stay Healthy, but also to Stay Connected.

Your commitment to supporting children's virtual learning and also the connectedness through virtual parenting time has been amazing. This rapid transition to virtual visitation has had its challenges but overall has helped so many children, caregivers and families manage through these difficult times. Staying Connected is critical to our individual health but also provides hope and comfort for children and parents who have been unable to see each other. This allows them to know that they are all staying safe and healthy.

In support of that connectedness, you will be receiving communication later today regarding Shared Parenting and the launch of our new Shared Parenting Journal. The communication will explain Shared Parenting and how it can assist you as a caregiver to learn more about the child in your care, provide an opportunity to help the children to stay connected with their birth family and provide information back to birth families.

The Department is continuing to evaluate the physical distancing requirements and its impact on the directives implemented to date. Looking ahead to next week, we are not planning on any adjustments to the directives in place however adjustments will be made as new information becomes available.

Just a reminder, if you are facing barriers with any basic needs please let us know by contacting the Department at Volunteer@azdcs.gov or calling the Warmline at 1-877-543-7633 Option 3. We will do everything in power to help our community through this difficult time.

Again, thank you for all you do and the service you provide to Arizona's children. Have a safe and blessed Easter/Passover weekend.

Sincerely,

Mike Faust
Director