

April 17, 2020

Dear Parents,

Now several weeks into the Governor's executive order to Stay Home, Stay Healthy and Stay Connected, I want to thank you for your continued patience as we support your health and that of your children while working to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

I am thankful to once again report that at this time no children in care are positive with COVID-19. We continue to monitor this closely and take every precaution to protect children, families, caregivers, staff and service providers.

During this time of virtual visitation, we are asking caregivers and supervised visitation providers to continue supporting parenting time to the greatest extent possible. This may include varying the duration and/or the frequency of the visit to best support your children's ability to participate. Additionally, we ask that you work with the caregiver and supervised visitation providers to develop engaging activities during the parenting time. Whether reading books, discussing how virtual school is going, or finding creative ways of engaging your children you can assist in making the most of your time together.

Following yesterday's announcements from the President about reopening our communities, the Department has begun reviewing and determining when it will be appropriate to resume regular operations. It is our intention to communicate the plans next week, and we will base our decisions on data communicated through the Department of Health Services and the Governor's decisions to move into each phase of reopening. We are all anxious to return to normalcy, but it is important that we continue to support the Stay Home, Stay Safe and Stay Connected orders until it is safe to do so.

Again, I want to thank you for your continued patience while we as Arizonans work through this public health crisis together.

Mike Faust
Director