



WMPC's COVID-19 Statement March 19, 2020

The safety and well-being of our community's children is West Michigan Partnership for Children (WMPC)'s priority and utmost concern.

We are upholding our commitment of social responsibility during the COVID-19 pandemic by limiting in-person contact whenever possible while balancing child safety and preserving the best interest of the child. This means our team is working from home whenever possible starting on March 16 and WMPC has moved all in-person meetings to teleconference or web conference. We have cancelled Foster Kent Kids events and will reschedule when it is safe to do so.

We are encouraging web conference options whenever possible for meetings with families and children. We are following guidance issued by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) which states that if the worker, caregivers and parents are agreeable to having in-person parenting time and sibling visits, these may still occur provided everyone in the foster parents and birth parents home are pre-screened and answer "no" to the following questions:

1. Is there any reason you have been instructed to self-quarantine or isolate?
2. Have you had contact with any Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) for COVID-19 within the last 14 days, OR with anyone with confirmed COVID-19?
3. Do you have any symptoms of a respiratory infection (e.g., cough, sore throat, fever, or shortness of breath)?

We will continue working with the MDHHS and our partner agencies to take precautionary measures to prevent and mitigate further transmission of the virus and to keep children and their families safe.

We are deeply concerned about the safety and well-being of children and families who may be disproportionately impacted by school closures, access to health care, and office closures. We encourage our community to help their neighbors and contribute to the efforts of community organizations providing for basic needs and essential services. We are maintaining a list of resources on our website here: <https://www.wmpc.care/what-you-should-know/covid-19-resources/>

We are grateful for the tireless work of social workers, medical professionals, public servants, and elected officials who are working to keep our community safe and healthy and to ensure provision of basic needs during this time.

Sincerely,

Kristyn Peck

Kristyn Peck
Chief Executive Officer
West Michigan Partnership for Children