



March 18, 2020

Dear Partners –

Below is a summary of information and guidance provided today, March 18, related to COVID-19.

1) FAQs – This FAQ document was sent out early this morning to our staff and POS agencies. It has been updated to reflect additional questions we received during the day today. We will make every attempt to update the document daily as we receive new questions.

[COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions for Purchase of Service Agencies](#)

2) This morning we sent out a guidance to staff from DCFS Medical Director, Dr. Scotellaro, regarding when staff should decide to stay home.

[COVID-19 guidance from Medical Director Margaret Scotellaro regarding staying home from work \(3/18/20\)](#)

3) The Department sent a guidance memo by email to all DCFS and POS staff this afternoon. The memo is attached and will be followed tomorrow by a related Action Transmittal.

4) The Illinois Department of Public Health today announced 128 new cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) across Illinois. Two additional counties are now reporting cases; Kendall and Madison counties.

[March 18 press briefing re: COVID-19](#)

5) Governor JB Pritzker announced the launch of a new website detailing the state's evolving response to COVID-19 and resources available to Illinois residents during this challenging time.

[Gov. Pritzker Launches Coronavirus.illinois.gov with Resources for Illinois Residents, Small Businesses.](#)

General Resources Related to COVID-19

The Illinois Department of Public Health has a statewide COVID-19 hotline and website to answer any questions from the public or to report a suspected case: call 1-800-889-3931 or visit IDPH.illinois.gov. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>) contains national information.

ILLINOISANS - STAY HOME! Social distancing is the paramount strategy for minimizing the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. Those experiencing symptoms should call a health care provider who will help arrange medical treatment without putting others at risk of exposure.

We continue to be incredibly grateful for your support and willingness to continue to serve children and families during this crisis. We can't do this work without you.

On behalf of DCFS,

Jassen

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