

Directors,

Thank you again to all who participated in Monday's call regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) prevention and preparation efforts. Below are answers to some of the questions that were asked. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me or Chief of Staff Shancie Jenkins ([Shancie.Jenkins@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Shancie.Jenkins@jfs.ohio.gov)), and we will do our best to answer them. Also remember that for up-to-date information about COVID-19, you can call the Ohio Department of Health hotline at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634) and/or visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov).

**Q. Is there information available about how best to disinfect a public facility?**

A. Yes. You can find guidance on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html>.

**Q. Do public meeting laws allow virtual meetings to be held in place of in-person meetings?**

A. We are researching this issue. To the extent that you have the flexibility to meet virtually, I would encourage you to do that and follow Governor DeWine's lead in directing state agencies to undertake reasonable social distancing measures for the next several weeks. Postpone large in-person meetings if you can, and encourage employees to maximize use of phone conferences, video conferences, webinars, and email to conduct business as much as possible.

**Q. Will TANF work participation requirements be relaxed in light of the recommended social distancing measures?**

A. We have asked the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. So far, they have not relaxed the requirements. We will continue to communicate with our federal partners. We understand your concerns.

**Q. Will information be provided for foster parents, child care providers, or other substitute caregivers?**

A. We encourage you to remind foster parents, child care providers, and other substitute caregivers to visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov) for up-to-date information and more specific guidance. They also can call the Ohio Department of Health hotline at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634) 7 days a week from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. In addition, please see the attached guidance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau.

**Q. Will the home visit protocols be changed for child and adult protective services?**

A. No, at this time protocols have not been adjusted. However, we will continue to evaluate as the situation unfolds.

**Q. Will the state provide funding for cleaning and sanitation supplies, or purchase bulk quantities of supplies that could be distributed to counties?**

A. At this point no, but we may consider doing so in the future.

**Q. If state staff are stationed in a non-state-owned building that closes because of the coronavirus, where should they report for work?**

A. The department has a Continuity of Operations Plan that determines where state employees should report for work in the event of facility closures. We will ensure all staff know their alternate work locations.

**Q. Is the Ohio Department of Health sharing information with county health departments?**

**A.** Yes, they are. We encourage county agencies and local workforce development boards to work closely with their county health departments. For local contact information, visit <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/find-local-health-districts>.

**Q. Can the state help with technology to allow county staff to work from home, if needed?**

**A.** We are currently evaluating that option.

Thank you again for your patience and collaboration.

Kind regards,

Kimberly Hall, Director  
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services