

May 31, 2020

Eric J. Holcomb, Governor Terry J. Stigdon, MSN, RN, Director

Indiana Department of Child Services

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> 317-234-KIDS FAX: 317-234-4497

> > www.in.gov/dcs

Child Support Hotline: 800-840-8757 Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 800-800-5556

Dear Staff,

Over the past several months you've heard me say that we are living in unprecedented and stressful times. Right now is no exception. Across our cities, state, and the entire nation, emotions and tempers are running high. In the midst of this unrest, we still have a vital job to do in strengthening families and keeping Hoosier children safe. We also have a responsibility to be alert and keep ourselves and loved ones out of harm's way. It is of primary importance to me that each of you are appropriately equipped, supported and safe while continuing to carry out your job duties.

We already have the means to maintain connections by virtual visits. In order to promote the safety of our families and team members, we will continue the option of using virtual resources for monthly face to face visits with children until June 15th. I also encourage our workers to team up for initial assessments of allegations of abuse and neglect. In addition, please utilize your SafeSignal to help us stay connected and provide assistance when you need it in an emergency.

Thank you for your voice and commitment to child safety.

With all my best,

Terry Stigdon, MSN, RN

Director

