

COVID-19 Impact on Foster Parents

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COVID-19 Impact on Child Welfare

- Children in foster care remain on a downward trend (6,362 in November 2020) lowest number in 14 years.
- Certifications continue.
 - Slowed completion of certifications.
 - Increase in inquiries since pandemic began.
- Foundations training and trainings through KEEP are being done virtually.
 - The KEEP program has additionally been able to expand substantially, while maintaining fidelity during evaluation of the intervention.
- Additional rate for foster homes able to provide care for COVID-19 positive or exposed youth, when needed.



Resources For Foster Parents

- Additional \$375 per month is available to foster parents based on need related to COVID-19 related to respite and child care.
- Every Child, in direct partnership with ODHS Child Welfare Division, has launched a comprehensive statewide emergency response to the fast-growing needs of children and families engaged with Oregon's Child Welfare system. The initiative is called My NeighbOR.
 - If you are an Oregon child or young adult in foster care or foster family share your need at everychildoregon.org/need/
 - If you can step up to meet the needs of Oregon's foster children and foster families, visit everychildoregon.org/myneighbor/



Workforce Impact

- Most staff are now telecommuting
- Child Protective Services assessments are still happening in person, with appropriate physical distancing guidelines being followed when possible.
- Safety and wellbeing of children and families is still a priority.
- Hiring continues but have shifted to developing virtual options for interviews and onboarding
- Moved Essential Elements training to virtual
- Creating venues to address trauma and needs of the workforce.



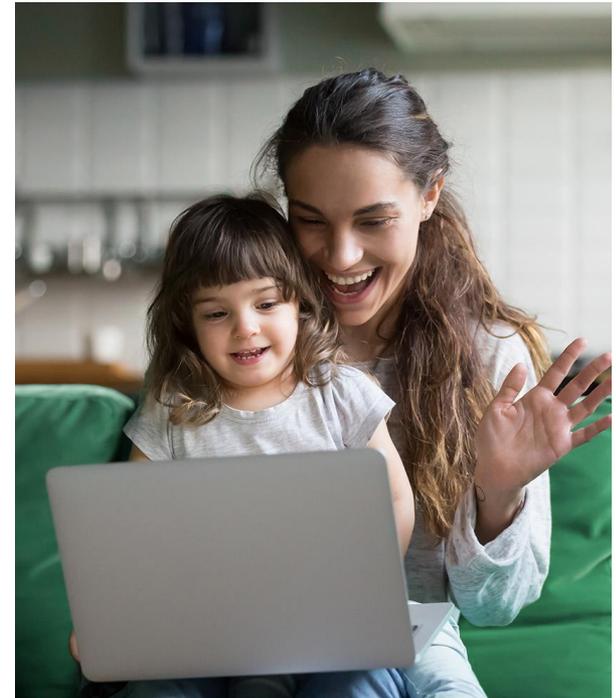
Impact on Children and Families

- Children need to hear their parent's loving words (and, if on a screen, loving face).
- Children need to hear (or see) familiar songs or conversation with their parent.
- Children need to talk about themselves. This means the adult asking about details at the child's level ("Tell me about something funny that happened to you today.")
- Children need to know their parents are OK and parents need to know their children are OK.



Visitation Guidelines

- Convened stakeholders representing both sides of the issue and public health experts that collaborate on each new issuance and provide ongoing revisions throughout.
- Most recent Guidance 11/18/20 a balance of the rights and needs of bio parents and those of providers all weighed against public health.
- Participants can raise objections to in person visitation
- Frequent and meaningful virtual visitation is being supported and equipment to support virtual visitation is being provided where available.
- Has been successful and virtual visitation is likely to continue to be supported in the future as an addition to traditional visitation plans.



Questions?

