

STRENGTHENING SOCIAL AND  
EMOTIONAL HEALTH

Updated 3/31/2020

Dear community partners,

Children's Institute is concerned about everyone's health, safety, and well-being during the COVID-19 outbreak. We want to share how we are now operating through this pandemic while following all protocols from the University of Rochester and numerous government agencies. Our mission is critical now more than ever as we all seek to learn about and weather the unprecedented adjustments required of each of us, across all ages including children, to curb community infection rates.

Children's Institute is implementing several preventative public health steps as we continue to promote our mission. As a result:

- Children's Institute is working remotely to serve the needs of our community through this pandemic. Please call or email the office. All staff email addresses are on our website at [www.childrensinstitute.net/about-us/our-team](http://www.childrensinstitute.net/about-us/our-team) - and you can call our general phone number (585) 295-1000 for further direction. Staff will continue to respond in a timely manner. All staff working from home have equipment and training to connect via virtual meetings through video conferencing, and they have immediate access to office email and phone messages.
- Plan for all meetings to be virtual for the near future. In-person and group meetings onsite are restricted until further notice. No business travel is currently authorized for our staff. We know that our partners have all implemented similar policies so our work will continue throughout this crisis.
- There will be no in-person events and workshops led or hosted by Children's Institute originally scheduled for the month of April. We are working to re-format such in-person events to be virtual wherever possible and will contact attendees as plans are updated.
- Be aware we continue to promote vigilant handwashing, social distancing, and other preventative protections when one staff member performs an essential business operation.

Now, more than ever, we are each called to model the world we seek to live in – putting health, safety, and the well-being of children and families at the forefront. We are also keenly aware of the need to act in new ways to close the disparity in impact on children, adults, and the communities that care for them, as we face the many effects of this pandemic.

In the days ahead, I encourage us to be creative with these new social distancing limitations – and continue to find ways we can help children and adults meet the new demands for adaptation, health and nutrition, and learning that this situation is placing on them and their families.

Ann Marie White, Ed.D.  
*Executive Director*

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