



March 19, 2020

Dear Parent/Caregiver:

RE: COVID-19

The Ministry of Children and Family Development is proactively responding to COVID-19 ensuring caregivers, youth, service providers, partners and our staff have the information they need.

Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, is providing daily updates on the COVID-19 virus and its impact in British Columbia.

To that end, staff will continue to ensure services in the following ways:

- At Healing Spirit House, we have taken steps to restrict the public in our building to sustain the health and wellbeing of children, youth, families and staff. We have also taken measures to change the format of visits via telephone and/or video to ensure vital connections with family and community stakeholders;
- The needs of in-person, telephone and video contact to continue to support children, youth and families in various settings.

Public health information is being updated regularly. Please find the latest information here:

- [BC Center for Disease Control](#)
- [Health Link Web site](#)
- [Health Canada Information](#)
- [Ministry of Children and Family Development Web site](#)

In line with the recent request from Dr. Henry, I encourage you to take preventative measures.

You can stay healthy and prevent the spread of infections by:

- washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands;
- avoiding close contact with people who are sick;
- coughing or sneezing into your sleeve and not your hands;
- staying home if you are sick to avoid spreading illness to others.

Should you suspect that you or any person in your home is ill as a result of COVID-19, please contact your health care provider or call 8-1-1.

Over the coming weeks, the Ministry will continue to provide updates and directions on the Ministry website.

Sincerely,



Teresa Dobmeier,
Assistant Deputy Minister, Service Delivery Division



Dillon Halter
Executive Director of Specialized Intervention and Youth Justice
Provincial Director of Youth Justice



Tom Jensen
Provincial Director
Maples Adolescent Treatment Centre