

Louisiana United Methodist
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MethodistFosterCare.org
LouisianaFosterCare.org
LUMCFS.org

Monday, March 30, 2020

Dear Families of Children in our Care,

LUMCFS is following guidelines and directives of national and state public health authorities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As with other illnesses, our staff members keep parents and guardians informed of the health conditions of the children and youth who are in our care.

Measures are in place to monitor all employees entering our facilities for elevated temperature and signs of illness. We have been fortunate so far in that only two of our staff members in Louisiana have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Staff who are ill are sent home. Staff who are ill are placed on sick leave, and they are prevented from returning to work until cleared by a physician.

We are closely monitoring the health of your children while they are in our care.

Should your child be diagnosed with COVID-19, we will follow the guidance of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control to medically care for them in a separate section of our facility. We will regularly update family members with their child's condition. Also, our 24-hour nursing staff will continually monitor the status of our children.

If our medical staff determine that a child's medical needs require discharge to a hospital for intensive treatment, we will do so without delay, and we will notify the family or guardians of the hospitalization.

In communities across Louisiana, local health, epidemiology, and emergency management experts are working to help all of us be safer as this coronavirus spreads through our state. Please **abide by the instructions you receive**. You may save the life of someone you know or love by slowing the spread of this virus.

Be informed. For trustworthy information about the novel coronavirus and the COVID-19 illness, there are two authoritative sources for accurate information for us in Louisiana.

The first is the **Louisiana Department of Health's** website: <http://ldh.la.gov/coronavirus>

The second is the U.S. **Centers for Disease Control**. The CDC has a ton of information about COVID-19, and it is organized for easy access. The URL is:

<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>

Sincerely,

Rick Wheat

President and CEO