

Dear Foster Parent,

In light of various reports on the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), we want to share some guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and NYS/NYC government to support you in making decisions about the care for children/youth in foster care at this time.

The CDC does not consider children a particularly vulnerable population for coronavirus: “Children are not identified as a vulnerable population at high-risk for COVID-19 symptoms.” For information on high-risk populations, please consult <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/index.htm>.

Preventive measures for children and their family members to prevent the spread of respiratory infections include:

- Avoiding people who are sick,
- Covering coughs (not with hands),
- Cleaning hands often with soap & water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer, and
- Staying up to date on vaccinations, including influenza.

You can find additional information on prevention measures here ([Prevention for 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#)).

Should you or anyone in your household demonstrate symptoms of fever, cough, or shortness of breath, please take the following steps as soon as possible:

- Communicate with the Forestdale Health Department (x.254) to advise them on the matter.
- Call the local health care provider for the person in your household who is showing symptoms. You need to have a medical professional advise you on next steps (Call 311 if you need help finding a health care provider).

If you need to speak with a health care provider at Forestdale to discuss any matter related to the health of a child in foster care, please call 718-263-0740, ext. 254. Please do not travel to Forestdale’s campus with anyone known to be sick with fever and/or respiratory illness to ensure the safety of other children and families visiting Forestdale. Furthermore, if you have had exposure to a person known to be diagnosed, please refrain from visiting campus.

For more information on COVID-19 and prevention, please consult with the following websites.

- Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>
- NYS Dept. of Health: <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>
- NYC Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene: https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/coronavirus.page?utm_source=google&utm_medium=search&utm_campaign=2019ncov

Sincerely,
The Forestdale Management Team
Family When Families Need Us