MLP COVID-19 Update  
March 24, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

Here is information for you and your practices as you continue to work with the state’s most vulnerable children and youth. We have set up a coronavirus resource page at the Center for Children’s Advocacy which you can find here. Scroll down for additional information re Juvenile Justice, Homeless Students, Foster Care and Education/Special Education.

Please click on the underlined items below for appropriate links.

- **Food Security – Free Meal Distribution Sites**
  Attached please find an updated version of free meal distribution sites for Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport and Waterbury. The state Department of Education has posted listings on its website of towns that will provide food to any child under the age of 18 and those towns where meal distribution is limited to those who reside in that city of town. Please have your patients/families contact their school/district for specific times for food distribution.

- **Child Welfare/Abuse & Neglect Issues**
  DCF’s careline is still operational and taking calls as usual. The numbers remain 1-800-842-2288 or for TDD, 1-800-624-5518 for reporting abuse, neglect or imminent risk of harm. The Department is, however, scaling back on other services, such as scheduling in-person visits and postponing and rescheduling semi-annual administrative case reviews. DCF’s COVID-19 website may be found here, including its daily emails to staff. Of particular note, please see the Commissioner’s March 19, 2020 COVID-19 Telework information memo to all staff.

- **Housing – Evictions Stayed until May 1**
  A reminder that all evictions and foreclosure ejectments in the state have been placed on hold through May 1, 2020 per court order. This means that tenants cannot be forcibly evicted by a state marshal until May 1, but eviction cases may still be filed with the appropriate court clerks’ offices.
Healthcare/ Health Insurance – HUSKY

- The Department of Public Health has suspended, for sixty days, the requirement that out of state physicians, nurses, therapists, LCSW’s etc., be licensed in Connecticut, as long as the individual holds a valid license from another state. The full order may be found [here](#).
- A reminder that telehealth services have been expanded, as per Governor Lamont’s [order](#), to allow for providers enrolled in Medicaid or in-network in fully-insured commercial plans to provide covered telehealth services *via audio-only telephone* to established patients (i.e., those with an existing provider-patient relationship).*

To date – there is still no coverage in the state for undocumented children and youth, or their parents who are also present without legal status. However – our requests are pending with the state for a temporary waiver to allow these most vulnerable children to be covered under the state’s Medicaid plan during the pendency of the crisis. We will update you should there be any change in this policy, and please let us know if you have any concerns about patients or families in crisis due to their immigration status.

As before, we are available for questions or consulting on those issues that most affect your at-risk patients and families. Please don’t hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

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*Thanks to Robinson & Cole attorneys Conor Duffy and Peter Struzzi for their excellent summary in the National Law Review, 3-22-20 available [here](#).