



MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP

COVID-19 Update #10. June 2, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

In today's MLP COVID-19 Update, we start with a reaffirmation of our commitment as a *Medical-Legal Partnership* to address the invidious health disparities that the COVID-19 crisis has brought to light on communities of color in our state and throughout the country. While our country reels from the senseless and vicious brutality exacted against George Floyd and other victims of endemic discrimination brought on by years of systemic institutional and governmental racism, we pledge to continue our work in light the tragic consequences borne out in Minneapolis and scores of other cities around the country. Racism, as reflected in poorer health outcomes, higher mortality rates and inequitable access to care, must be viewed as a common enemy if we are to truly reform healthcare – especially in pediatric settings where we focus our work. To paraphrase Angela Davis, “[we are] no longer accepting the things [we] cannot change. [We are] changing the things [we] cannot accept.”

To view the Center for Children's Advocacy's Statement on the events surrounding the George Floyd homicide and its impact, go [here](#). And courtesy of Patricia Baker, President and CEO of the Connecticut Health Foundation:

*All of us come to this conversation from a different starting point. For many, there is value in furthering our own education on the roots and impact of racism and how we can actively fight against it. Here are three resources that can be helpful starting points:*

- [Anti-racism resources](#), Sarah Sophie Flicker and Alyssa Klein
  - [How racism makes us sick](#), David R. Williams
  - [Structural racism is a public health crisis](#), Kesha Moore
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- **Flourishing Families Team From Yale Pediatrics Issues Resources on Addressing Race & Health Disparities.**
- Flourishing Families, a Yale Pediatrics team dedicated to “advocacy and action” has issued released four resources dedicated to pediatric providers who wish to get involved in changing the culture of healthcare and addressing racial and ethnic disparities. Here

is the email from [Dr. Molly Markowitz](#), including four valuable resources for commencing the fight against healthcare inequity based on race:

*The events of the past several months during the COVID-19 pandemic have highlighted for the general public what we know to be true. There are great structural inequities in our healthcare systems, workplaces, schools, and communities which negatively impact child health. As we watch minorities disproportionately die from COVID-19 and communities take to the streets to protest violence against Black youth, we cannot help but feel the need to do something. Here are two ways we can all make a difference:*

### **Educate Ourselves**

- **AAP:** READ their policy statement from last year "["Racism and Its Impact on Child and Adolescent Health"](#)"
- **The New York Times:** LISTEN to The Daily podcast "["The Story of Two Brothers from Mexico"](#)"

### **Take Action**

- **NAACP:** POST on social media and SEND an email: [WE ARE DONE DYING](#)
- **Unidad Latina en Acción:** SIGN the petition and SEND an email: [Urge Governor Lamont to create Disaster Relief Fund for Immigrants](#)
- **Utility Protections Continue through the Declared Emergency – and Non-Residential Shutoffs Extended Through July 1, 2020**

On May 29, The Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) issued a press release indicating that the utility shutoff moratorium for non-residential customer will continue *at least through July 1, 2020*. The existing prohibition against residential utility shutoffs *will continue throughout the existence of the emergency (as determined by the state of Connecticut)*. PURA's press release may be found [here](#). If your patient has received a notice of shutoff or had their utilities, including electric, natural gas, and water, shut off, please contact one of our MLP attorneys, [Bonnie Roswig](#) or [Alice Rosenthal](#), or call our MLP intake line at (860) 989-7982.
- **Educating Students During the Pandemic – Over 20% of Hartford Students Still Not Engaged**

In a *Hartford Courant* article [published yesterday](#), Rebecca Lurye reports that on average, approximately 20% of Hartford Public School students are not participating in "virtual or tech-free learning week-to-week." Participation is even lower for English Language Learners and students with disabilities. In addition, over one-third of the students classified as "homeless" (approximately 400 families) did not turn in any work during the week of May 11-15. If your patient is one of these "ghost learners" – not touching base with school or unable to participate due to technological or distance

learning issues, please [reach out to us](#) as soon as possible. With the impending likelihood of a virtual summer program lurking on the horizon, students *should have access to distance learning opportunities regardless of where they live or their socioeconomic status.*

- **Undocumented Children and Youth Still Waiting for Health Insurance.**

Despite the continued efforts of many of you on this email over the past two months, the state has yet to expand eligibility for Medicaid and HUSKY B coverage to undocumented children and their families. You can *still* join the 245 front-line clinicians who have signed the petition requesting Governor Lamont to expand HUSKY coverage to undocumented children, youth and their families by going [here](#). And remember, the best way to let your voice be heard by the Governor is to reach out directly by sending an email to the Governor's chief of staff, [Paul Mounds](#), the state's COO [Josh Geballe](#), or writing the Governor directly. Your voice – particularly those who are working in the clinical setting, can still make a difference to the approximately 17,000 undocumented children and youth who remain the most vulnerable, and yet still completely uninsured, for health insurance coverage save for testing and emergency treatment of COVID-19.

As always, thank you for your leadership, courage and expertise. Stay safe and well.  
Sincerely,

*The MLP Team*

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