



Health & Human Services

Memorandum

From: Elizabeth Aldred, HHS Director
Date: March 16, 2020
RE: COVID-19

Senior leadership within Health and Human Services is meeting regularly regarding COVID-19. Department leaders continue to follow the Centers for Disease Control and the Department of Health Services protocols for dealing with the virus.

The situation regarding COVID-19 or coronavirus is rapidly changing. Over the past week there have been several announcements that impact our community. In order to provide citizens with the most up to date information Health and Human Services has created an information page on the county website. This site will be updated daily to include the most recent information. The website will include guidance for travel, mass gatherings, schools, as well as how to find out more information.

The health and safety of the people that we serve as well as the residents of our Walworth County community is of the utmost importance to us. In keeping with social distancing recommendations the department will be making a few changes to the way we deliver our services in order to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

As of March 17, 2020 we will be implementing a screening process for all home and community visits. Whenever possible appointments will be held via the phone. Staff will be contacting people at home prior to their appointments and will be asking a few simple screening questions including checking to be sure that all household members are fever free and have not been in direct contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus. Signs will be posted outside of the building as an additional screen to make sure that we protect the health of all of our visitors. In-person visits and groups will still be held as needed to assure that individuals and families have access to necessary safety and health related care. Regardless of the mode of services delivery, Health and Human Services will remain open to the public.

Additionally we are taking steps to increase our vigilance in disease control through increase sanitization of the facility and use of personal protective equipment as needed.

What can you do to help?

- The best thing that you can do to keep yourself and others healthy is to regularly wash your hands with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds.

- If water isn't available, then use hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer needs to contain at least 60 percent alcohol to be effective.
- Refrain from shaking hands.
- If you cough or sneeze, do so into your elbow or a tissue.
- Get plenty of sleep.
- If you have a fever, please stay home.

These steps are about preparedness. Walworth County and Health and Human Services have taken steps to make sure that emergency plans are in place and that we can continue to provide our core services through the course of this health emergency.