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## PROMOTING QUALITY CHILD CARE

## CCCMONTANA.ORG

March 14, 2020

Dear Providers,

On Thursday afternoon, our Montana State Governor, Steve Bullock, declared a state of emergency over the Coronavirus. With four known cases in the state, there continues to be a sense of alarm in the air. What can we do? We can follow our Governor's lead and help our communities and state be prepared.

We have had several providers reach out to us regarding the Coronavirus and precautions that may be necessary in this medical crisis. In times like these, we as an agency look to the experts to give us guidance on how to respond. This email is to provide you with current information. Please use the links in this message to guide you to additional resources.

**What is CCC doing?** We are monitoring leading sources including the <u>Centers for Disease Control and</u> <u>Prevention (CDC)</u>, and <u>Montana State</u> and <u>County Health Department</u> websites. We are also in contact with the <u>Early Childhood Services Bureau (ECSB)</u> and our area <u>Licensors</u> on how best to proceed at this time. CCC expects to hear back from ECSB early in the upcoming week. We will have more information and guidance to provide you and will do so expeditiously. Additionally, we have been receiving a wealth of information from many different sources. As information is given to us, we will be passing it along to you through <u>emails</u>, <u>newsletter</u>, <u>social media posts</u>, and updates to our <u>website</u>.

During this time of uncertainty, it is important to remember that we can continue to support each other. Now, more than ever, it is critical that we stay focused and keep lines of communication flowing as we redirect our thoughts to prepare and prevent the spread of Coronavirus in our community.

## Together lets...

**Prepare.** It is important to have a <u>Pandemic Plan</u> for your child care in your Emergency Plan to implement *if* necessary. If you do not have a Pandemic Plan in your Emergency Plan, please contact us and we can help you with this. Staying up to date is also important. Child Care Aware of America is offering a <u>FREE webinar for child care on COVID-19</u>.

**Prevent.** Basic health, safety, and sanitation procedures should continue to be followed... disinfect toys and surfaces, wash hands regularly, cover coughs, stay home when ill, as well as other procedures that are done in child care facilities as usual. The <u>CDC</u> is encouraging social distancing of six (6) feet in communities that have active cases. Practicing these prevention measures will help our community stay as healthy and strong as possible. To further promote these prevention measures, our offices will be closed to the public on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. Our staff will be available to assist with questions by email or phone.

Know that we, as an agency, are here to help and support you. Please let us know if you have further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Brandi Thomas and Tori Sproles Provider Services Coordinators (406) 587-7786 www.cccmontana.org