



March 18, 2020

Dear Family Support Families,

As Coronavirus and social distancing impact how people gather around the world, we've felt the challenge and disruption it's caused all our daily lives and the services for your children and family members. We are daily trying to determine how best to proceed by gathering guidance from both State and Federal Government. Many clients have asked us how best to move forward with continued therapy and assessments. We are working with experts in our field to determine how best to proceed with tele – therapy and home-based education and therapy tools to continue to support your family.

We ask you to be the lead in speaking about what supports are needed during this national response to COVID19. We are going to be collecting resources such as schools participating in free lunch opportunities, community resources, education updates, and family support opportunities and sharing those through email, our Facebook pages, and through contact with your service coordinator.

Your Gateways team is here to support you in every way we can. Your service coordinator is in place to keep you informed and to support you with planning. Please communicate your service needs to your service coordinator. If you can't reach your service coordinator, please contact **Samantha Quick Poltack** at squick@gatewayscs.org or **459-2709**. Our partnerships are key in this challenging time. We will all prevail together and return to typical circumstances.

During this time, we are going to attempt to interact through phone, email, videoconferencing whenever possible to decrease the risk of spreading the illness. Please continue to include your service coordinator in any school conversations or other team interactions. We are working with families to follow CDC recommendations and encouraging families to obtain water, food, and medications for 14 days or longer if possible. Your Service Coordinator can help you with the coordination of medications.

We continue to plan and develop strategies to keep our participants happy, safe, and healthy as we navigate this situation. Please keep lines of communication open so we can address your needs as they arise. As always, thank you for your partnership.

Best regards,

Mindy Huckins
Senior Director of Family and Participant Directed Services

Sandra Pelletier
CEO/President