



Protecting Children by Strengthening Families

Media Release

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Parents and Caregivers Need to Create a **Crisis Child Care Plan** for COVID-19

(Columbus, Ohio)- At Franklin County Children Services, protecting children by strengthening families is our top priority. During the uncertainty of the COVID-19 crisis, we want to ensure that parents and caregivers have a plan for their child/children in case they become ill. Below are some tips for families and caregivers to create a Crisis Child Care Plan:

Designate a Caregiver

This should be someone nearby, who is not at high risk of contracting COVID-19. If a spouse or partner cannot care for children in your home, select a friend, neighbor, coworker or relative. Also, reach out to parents of children who attend the same school as your child. Talk to them in advance to discuss a backup plan. List information for the caregiver prominently in your home, so that it can easily be found by emergency responders.

Reach out to Community Resources

If you can't identify anyone, contact community resources such as hospitals, churches and other organizations to see if they can recommend assistance. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services is licensing [temporary pandemic child care programs](#) for essential workers.

Create a Child Profile for your children

Create a child care profile for the caregiver that lists your child's full name, birthdate, allergies, medications, likes/dislikes and sleep habits. Also include emergency contacts and copies of their birth certificate and immunization records.

*During this time of COVID-19, we are asking parents and caregivers to plan for the well-being of their children. Regularly check with families who may be at risk. Also, pay attention to signs of neglect and abuse. The Franklin County Children Services **Child Abuse Prevention Hotline is open 24-hours a day, seven days a week. If you suspect abuse or neglect call 614-229-7000.***

For more information visit www.childservices.franklincountyOhio.gov

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