

### What to Advise Your Pediatric Patients During the COVID-19 Crisis

As your partners for the past twenty years, the Center for Children's Advocacy's *Medical-Legal Partnership* remains committed to ensuring that the state's most vulnerable population is appropriately served and that their health-harming legal needs are met with compassion, dignity and zealous advocacy.

In that spirit, we hope this one-page advisory produced by our MLP team, will provide some guidance and information on important issues facing our patient/clients and their families during the coming weeks and months. As always, if you have any questions you should feel free to reach out to our staff, listed below.

#### Income Security

##### Public Assistance - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Cash Benefits)

Applications online at [connect.ct.gov/access/jsp/access/Home.jsp](http://connect.ct.gov/access/jsp/access/Home.jsp) or call 2-1-1 for more information.

In-person interviews for cash assistance have been temporarily waived.

##### Unemployment Insurance Benefits

Applications for Unemployment Insurance Benefits online at [www.filectui.com](http://www.filectui.com)

#### Health Insurance

##### HUSKY

Applications for HUSKY, the state's Medicaid and CHIP programs (HUSKY A & B) online at [connect.ct.gov/access/jsp/access/Home.jsp](http://connect.ct.gov/access/jsp/access/Home.jsp) or call 2-1-1. DSS has authorized coverage of some telemedicine services for identified health services.

#### Need for Health Insurance due to Loss of Employment / Meets Income Guidelines

Contact Access Health CT at 1-855-805-4325 or [accesshealthct.com](http://accesshealthct.com)

#### Utilities and Fuel Delivery

##### Electric and Gas Utilities

Connecticut has banned all utility shutoffs, including, gas, electricity and water, during the pendency of the crisis. Families facing imminent shutoff notices or whose utilities were shut off should call the Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) at 1-800-382-4586.

##### Energy Assistance/Fuel Oil

The moratorium *does not apply to fuel oil*. However, Operation Fuel is still taking applications and may be reached at 860-243-2346 or by email at [info@operationfuel.org](mailto:info@operationfuel.org)

#### Food Security

##### Food Stamps (SNAP)

Applications online at [connect.ct.gov/access/jsp/access/Home.jsp](http://connect.ct.gov/access/jsp/access/Home.jsp), or call 2-1-1.

##### Free or Reduced-Cost Meals for Students

Schools are providing meals to students who attend their schools.

Check the websites for individual school districts to see which school will be providing meals or call 2-1-1.

Hartford Public Schools:

[hartfordschools.org/understanding-coronavirus](http://hartfordschools.org/understanding-coronavirus)

New Haven Public Schools: [nhps.net/food](http://nhps.net/food)

Bridgeport Public Schools: [bridgeportedu.net](http://bridgeportedu.net)

##### Other resources for food during the crisis:

2-1-1 Infoline

#### Housing Protections

There is a suspension of all hearings, defaults and executions in Connecticut's housing court until at least April 1, 2020 at the earliest. This means that those facing evictions may have some relief. If a patient has an eviction pending, have them call the housing session where their case is located or Statewide Legal Services for more information at (800) 453-3320.

#### Health and Safety Reminders

- Maximize health by eating regularly, sleeping enough, exercising, going outdoors for a little sunlight and vitamin D.
- Wash hands, and children's hands, with soap, for 20 seconds, when coming in, before eating and also every few hours.
- Get backup medications from the pharmacy if possible for any medical issues.
- If ill, call medical office for advice; do not just show up in the emergency room without calling a doctor, unless it is literally life or death.

#### MLP Contact Information

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Center for Children's Advocacy Medical-Legal Partnership COVID19 and Patient/Client Support