



Health Imperatives

COVID-19 Update

Dear Friends,

We hope you are doing well during this difficult time. We have been working very closely with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and with local community partners for the past few weeks to prevent the spread of COVID-19 while ensuring the availability of critical health care, emergency services and essential supports for low-income and vulnerable families and individuals across Southeastern Massachusetts. In fact, we are prepared to serve more people who are impacted by COVID-19 in the coming weeks and months.

Many of Our Services Are Now Even Easier to Access

Health Imperatives is now delivering most services by telephone. We are able to quickly assess a caller's needs, provide some services directly over the telephone, and link callers to multiple services to provide coordinated and comprehensive assistance.

We are still providing direct care in person at our Penelope's Place emergency domestic violence shelter and in Department of Youth Services' facilities. Our sexual and reproductive health clinics are still seeing patients who need urgent care, and we are asking people to call the clinics to be screened to determine whether they can do a telehealth visit or must see someone in person.

Please see below for specific information on how to access our services. We ask that you forward this information to anyone who may need these services.

Violence Intervention and Prevention

Our **Penelope's Place** emergency domestic violence shelter is fully functioning. The shelter can be reached through our domestic violence and sexual assault hotline number, which is **508-588-8255**.

Health Imperatives' counseling services are available by telephone through **A New Day**. Clients can reach A New Day through our hotline at **508-588-8255**. To schedule a counseling appointment with A New Day or get information about group support programs, including BRAGLY, please call **508-588-2045**.

Our **SAFEPLAN** court advocacy program is providing telephone support to help survivors obtain restraining orders and harassment prevention orders. Advocacy and safety planning services are also available over the telephone. Individuals seeking SAFEPLAN assistance should call **508-535-5028**.

Our **Healthy Families and Young Parent Support** programs are providing services over the telephone at:

Blue Hills Healthy Families
781-335-1455

Brockton Young Parent Services
508-894-8543

Cape & Islands Healthy Families
508-540-2968

Home visiting sessions are currently being provided via an online platform.

Health Intervention and Prevention

Sexual and reproductive health care: Health Imperatives' clinic staff are assessing medical needs, answering questions, providing certain services immediately over the telephone, and linking patients to other services. Patients with more complex or urgent medical needs are being connected by telephone to one of our practitioners. We will schedule in-person appointments for those with urgent medical needs that cannot be addressed over the telephone. For access to Health Imperatives' sexual and reproductive health services, please call:

Brockton
508-586-3800

Cape Cod
508-771-8010

Martha's Vineyard
508-693-1208

Nantucket
508-228-9189

New Bedford
508-984-5333

Plymouth
508-746-8353

Wareham
508-295-0383

Our sexual and reproductive health services include birth control, pregnancy testing, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), Hepatitis C and HIV testing, HIV prevention medications, gender affirming hormone

therapy, reproductive health exams, cancer screenings, and colposcopies to identify cervical cancer and other pre-cancerous conditions.

Women, Infants and Children nutrition program: We continue to see all current clients as well as reach out to families who have experienced a loss of income and may be newly eligible for the WIC nutrition program due to recent events. For access to Health Imperatives' WIC services, please call:

Cape Cod WIC
508-771-7896

Plymouth WIC
508-747-4933

WIC provides free, healthy food, infant formula, breastfeeding support, and nutrition education, as well as referrals for medical and dental care, health insurance, child care, housing, and fuel assistance. The program serves pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants, and children under age five. To be eligible, families must have a nutritional need and an annual income of no more than 185% of the federal poverty level (\$39,461 for a family of three).

We Need Your Support!

COVID-19 has impacted so many people in the communities we serve that Health Imperatives' essential programs are needed now more than ever. Please encourage anyone you know who needs emergency assistance or support to contact us. Please also consider making a donation to support our efforts to help low-income, vulnerable individuals and families, many of whom have nowhere else to turn. Thank you so much. Be well.