



Good afternoon,

By now, we are certain you have received a number of communications regarding **COVID-19, or coronavirus**. The shifting conditions and evolving understanding of who – and what – is at risk can result in significant fear and anxiety. With preparation, preventative measures and adherence to national and state public health authority recommendations, we can work together to keep our community safe during these trying times. In consideration for the health and wellness of our stakeholders, all Hope Starts Here in-person events and meetings will be temporarily postponed or held virtually. More information will be made available as soon as new dates or arrangements are confirmed.

In the coming weeks we will share digital hope-kits with tools and other resources to address various ways to manage stress for adults and children. We will also provide information on local resources for families who are in need of additional support.

In particular, resources from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) as well as the [Michigan Department of Health & Human Services](#) can help you understand how to best keep you and your loved ones out of harm's way.

All Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) programs – including the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#); [Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\)](#); and the [National School Lunch](#) and [Breakfast Programs](#) – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of an emergency situation. For the latest news on Michigan specific services, please visit [The Office of Governor Whitmer](#).

In addition, parents and educators are facing unique challenges. Thankfully, our partners at [Detroit Public Television \(DPTV\)](#) are ready to help. For the past week, DPTV has been assembling educational resources to support schools, teachers, parents and kids in this time of uncertainty. First and foremost, their programming is available 24/7 online and on-the-air. All of their content including their mobile device apps are curriculum based, tested and vetted. Every mobile device and cell phone in the city can essentially be a platform for education, serving parents and children with rich educational content.

As a partnership that engages families, businesses, educators, health experts and the larger Detroit community, [Hope Starts Here](#) will continue our work to support systems-level change for our city's children and families.

We know that, despite this uncertainty, Detroit is strong and resilient. The hope that we all share starts here. Please share this information with all of your loved ones.

Best,

Denise Smith  
Implementation Director  
Hope Starts Here Detroit