

Katherine J. Bell, PsyD  
Youth Services Supervisor

March 16, 2020

To our Mansfield families and community,

“In an abundance of caution” is how most communications through email, text, social media, and robo-calls all seem to be starting out these days – and this letter is no exception. We’re happy to be cautious with you, and for you, and for those who are most at risk. We here at Youth Services will continue to work with our Town of Mansfield leadership, the Eastern Highlands Health District, the Mansfield and Region 19 Boards of Education, and state and federal governing agencies to help ensure safety in our community.

For us, we know that means changes in what our services look like in our day to day, and will likely continue to change based on the recommendations of experts who are attuned to the course of the COVID19 concerns. We are still here to offer supports to youth and families in this time of anxiety, uncertainty, fear, and all of the challenges that come with these significant changes in routines and sense of normalcy.

At this time, Youth Services priorities are focused on responding to the mental health and concrete needs of our community. We are asking that you help us do so in safe ways:

- We are limiting our face-to-face services where possible, but will be available by phone and other potentially “creative” ways. You can access all of our contact information on our website (<https://mansfieldct.gov/YouthServices>).
- We will continue to work as a part of our larger Human Services department to help families with food insecurity access food pantry needs.
- Youth Services will be doing our best to share content through our facebook pages <https://www.facebook.com/MansfieldYouthServices> & <http://facebook.com/MansfieldAdvocatesForChildren> with updates to our services, as well as sharing information about supporting youth (and the grown up self-care too) during this time. We’ll also be creating and sharing digital content for youth and families that will still support the need for social distancing. We’ve got loads of our favorite books that we’re excited to do video read-alongs to share!
- Please do not come in to our office without a scheduled appointment if the need cannot be resolved over the phone, and please do not do so if you have any illness symptoms or reason to suspect that you have been exposed to the COVID19 virus.

For specific COVID19 information as it relates to the Town of Mansfield health and services, please access the COVID19 Homepage (<https://MansfieldCT.gov/COVID19>). Thank you for your responsibility and support during these times calling for social distancing. Don’t hesitate to call and let us know what we can do to support you.

Be well, stay well,  
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