

US President and Vermonter Calvin Coolidge spoke about *“this brave little state of Vermont”* after a devastating flood almost 100 hundred years ago. This sentiment of Vermonters’ tenacity and bravery continues to be true as we navigate the coronavirus outbreak together. The Children and Youth with Special Health Needs staff understands that the coronavirus outbreak is especially challenging for parents and caregivers who suddenly find themselves in the roles of full-time nurses, personal care attendants, or special education teachers. **Our team will continue to stay in touch:** we expect to send regular updates to keep your family updated. While the focus of our work has shifted to respond primarily to the pandemic, we need you to know that **we are here for you**, we are available, and we will get through this together.

### Talk to Us

- The staff at [CSHN](#) is committed to keeping you informed about resources and changes to services that may apply to your family. Even though in-person visits are on hold right now, we are just a call or email away.
- Go to our website to find your local [CSHN Care Coordinator](#) or call us at 802-863-7338.

### Highlights

- [Children’s Personal Care Services](#) - The Vermont Agency of Human Services submitted a federal waiver request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that would allow parents and primary caregivers to be paid for the extra personal care support they are providing to their eligible children during the current public health emergency. On April 2, 2020, CMS gave provisional approval to implement this change on a temporary basis only. Staff at Children’s Personal Care Services, Vermont Medicaid and ARIS Solutions are presently sorting the details for how to process payments to parents and primary caregivers. These payments are based on the medically necessary personal care that your eligible children require. We intend to share more specific information during a **Town Hall on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>** hosted by [Vermont Family Network](#). To register, please email Jamie Rainville at [jamie.rainville@vtfn.org](mailto:jamie.rainville@vtfn.org).

### Resources

- [COVID-19: Information for Families of Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs](#) – The American Academy of Pediatrics provided a recording and article with suggestions for what families can do to keep safe and healthy. The information was compiled by a pediatrician and a representative from Family Voices, and includes advice on preparing the home, medical appointments, supplies, schooling, coping, and more.
- [COVID-19 - Retail Pharmacy Home Delivery Options](#) - List of retail pharmacy home delivery options – Medicaid Enrolled Pharmacies During COVID-19 Emergency

Find information and all of these updates at [www.healthvermont.gov/family/special-health-needs](http://www.healthvermont.gov/family/special-health-needs)