



1797 King Avenue • Kings Mills, OH 45034

3/16/2020

Dear Parents:

In light of the school closures due to the COVID-19 virus, we are working diligently to ensure that the mental and emotional health of our students remains a priority. The situation is fluid and changing daily.

If your student is receiving mental health services from one of our mental health partner agencies (either Beech Acres or Solutions), your child's therapist or team member will be in touch with you this week to discuss service options during this time, either virtually or via phone. We will start with a triage system, but make sure everyone is contacted. Please feel free to also reach out to them as well. Please note, medication management services via Beech Acres will take place over the phone.

Your child's school counselors are available during regular school hours, either virtually or by phone. You will receive information from your respective buildings with contact information. You can reach out to your child's school counselor for virtual checks in/phone calls if needed.

In case of a mental health crisis, we wanted to share some options with you. Please read the statement below regarding the use of emergency departments for a mental health emergency, and follow the protocol for use of the Psychiatric Intake Response Unit through Cincinnati Children's Medical Center.

"Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center is committed to the safety of all patients. Similar to the rest of the country, CCHMC has the potential to be impacted by the COVID-19 virus and we are expecting an increase in patients presenting to our emergency departments. Our goal is for patients who do not need emergent care to avoid the emergency department in an attempt to avoid unnecessary exposure to infectious illness.

For a mental health crisis or emergency, patients and families are encouraged to contact their current mental health provider first. This allows the mental health provider, who knows your child best, to provide support and direction. If your child does not have a mental health provider, and they are experiencing a non-life threatening mental health crisis, you are encouraged to contact the Psychiatric Intake Response Center (PIRC) at CCHMC 513.636.4124. The PIRC staff will help you to decide the most effective level of intervention for your child's mental health crisis – which may include an urgent psychiatric assessment in the PIRC Bridge Clinic.

You should go to the emergency department if you are experiencing a medical emergency, a life-threatening mental health crisis, or are directed to go there by a medical provider. This will help limit the spread of the virus in our community and allow our emergency departments to care for patients with the most critical needs first."

MRSS-Mobile Crisis Stabilization and Support

What is MRSS?

Mobile Response & Stabilization Services (MRSS) is a comprehensive program available to youth ages 0 to 21 and their families. MRSS staff meet with youth and families in person wherever they are to provide intensive services to address emotional and/or behavioral issues that require intervention. Families can stay with MRSS for up to 60 days.

How to reach MRSS

Call (877) 695-6333 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Crisis Hotline (Warren County) and Text Line:

If you feel that you or a friend is in a crisis situation and/or fearful of hurting yourself or others and there isn't a caring adult you can reach right away, please **contact (877) 695-NEED (6333) or text 741741 and type 4HOPE**. Take this time to put these as contacts in your phone please. These crisis lines are operated 24/7, so please call or text anytime you have questions or concerns, day or night.

If you should have any questions regarding your child's mental health services, please feel free to contact me at either ksellers@kingslocal.net, or leave a voicemail message with the best number and time to reach you-513.398.8050, ext 10056.

Sincerely,

Kim Sellers

Kim Sellers, MSW, LISW-S, CTP
Social Emotional Health Coordinator
Kings Local Schools