



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Bill J. Crouch  
Cabinet Secretary

MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** March 20, 2020

**TO:** Mac Warner  
Secretary of State

**FROM:** Bill J. Crouch *BJC*  
Secretary of Department of Health and Human Resources

**RE: Pilot Program for Drug screening of Applicants for Cash Assistance  
W. Va. C.S.R. § 78-26**

The Department of Health and Human Resources Bureau for Children and Families requests that W.Va. C.S.R. § 78-26 be temporarily suspended, in its entirety, effective immediately pursuant to W. Va. Code §15-5-6(c)(7) and the State of Emergency declared by Governor Justice on March 16, 2020.

W. Va. C.S.R. § 78-26 establishes and sets forth the requirements for drug screening applicants of benefits from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. Drug screening requires close contact between individuals which may spread the COVID-19 virus. Strict compliance with the rule will hinder and delay necessary action in coping with the emergency declared by the Governor.

If granted, the Bureau for Children and Families further requests that the rule be suspended until such time as the State of Emergency is lifted.