

**Child Welfare Services  
Foster Family Agencies  
Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs  
Frequently Asked Questions  
Related to COVID-19**

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## Is there COVID-19 testing capability for congregate care staff?

Criteria for evaluation of persons for testing for COVID-19 has been expanded to include a wider group of **symptomatic patients** in congregate care. COVID-19 Symptoms are:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath

If staff and youth in GHs and STRT Ps have coronavirus symptoms and think they need testing, contact your healthcare provider. Local health departments and healthcare providers determine who needs testing and hospitalization on a case-by-case basis. If staff and/or youth are going to be tested IEU, CCL and Public Health need to be notified.

California is expanding coronavirus testing capacity daily. Governor Newsom announced [the COVID-19 Testing Task Force](#), a public-private collaboration that will work with stakeholders across the state to quickly and significantly boost California's testing capacity. The Task Force plans to scale up testing as demand increases. During this interim period while testing is expanding, testing is being prioritized for people who:

- have coronavirus symptoms AND
- have one of these risk factors:
  - are hospitalized,
  - are a resident or staff of long-term health and correctional facilities OR
  - work in a healthcare facility, OR
  - are in prison OR
  - are over 60 years old, have a compromised immune system, or have serious chronic medical conditions.

To learn more about testing and treatment, see [California Department of Public Health Coronavirus Updates](#).

## What is the expectation of the County for PPE use? Does both staff and youth need to use it?

San Diego County officials have expanded a public health order requiring facial coverings for additional essential employees. Staff and youth need to follow all health directives to contain the spread of COVID-19. At a minimum, (1) wash your hands (2) maintain social distancing (3) wear a cloth face cover when going out in public (4) wear gloves if deemed necessary and appropriate.

Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others:

- You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick.
- Everyone should wear a cloth face cover when they have to go out in public, for example to the grocery store or to pick up other necessities.
- Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.
- Do NOT use a facemask meant for a healthcare worker.
- Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others. The cloth face cover is not a substitute for social distancing.

### FEDERAL RESOURCES

- [Coronavirus.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)
- [USA.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus)

## Will CCL extend provisional STRTP license if it needed?

Cynthia Grey at CCL said they would extend provisional STRTP licenses as applicable. Please contact CCL as the end date on your license approaches so an extension can be reviewed and appropriate action taken.

## During the STRTP COVID-19 conference call, providers asked how AWOLs are being handled.

Providers shared their practices for AWOL youth returning the STRTP. They are checking temperatures, isolating the returning youth, following all CDC guidelines to cleanliness including washing of hands, changing clothing upon entry, sanitizing frequently. Please also review the PIN 20-02 on the CDSS website that discusses protocols.

## IEP Plans are not being developed in a timely manner. How can the county access assistance to assist and support the providers? Are there tutoring resources available?

All public schools in California have been instructed to move to **distance learning** for all students, including those with IEPs and 504 plans. The Individuals with Disabilities Educational Act (IDEA) is still in effect. IDEA requires public schools to provide a **free appropriate public education** to eligible children with disabilities throughout the nation and ensures **special education** and related services to those children.

San Diego County Child Welfare Services Protective Services Worker (PSW) is the child's/youth's first point of contact to assist with education needs as well as other required services and resources. The PSW and contractor can reach out their COR for assistance. It takes a village to ensure the health, safety and welfare of children and youth placed in our care.

## Will County visitation rooms be available for FFA use during the current healthcare crisis?

Yes, County visitation rooms can be utilized. Please work with the child/youth's primary social worker for scheduling.

## Will the County be able to provide PPE for use during family visits at County locations?

CWS is working to obtain PPEs to provide to families. However, public health recommends that everyone leaving their home should be covering their face. Families are being asked to provide their own facial coverings at this time.

## Can home inspections be done virtually?

Yes, if you know the home well. If it is a new home or one you are not familiar with then an in-person visit is necessary.

## Is it required that FFA resource families have face-to-face visits with PSWs?

All efforts should be made to communicate and provide information to all parties in order to address concerns timely that will occur due to the lack of in-person visits. Social workers must assess the needs and safety of the child and caregiver to determine if a face-to-face visit with the resource family is necessary. The social worker should consult with the FFA, their supervisor and manager to determine the necessity of a face-to-

face visit. Prior to any in-person visits, the social worker should be asking the screening questions related to COVID-19:

- Are you experiencing any of the following symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing?
- In the last 14 days, have you come into close contact with someone who is known to have COVID-19?
- In the last 14 days, have you traveled to an area with widespread, ongoing COVID-19 transmission?
- The face-to-visit should not occur if any member of the resource family visit is showing symptoms COVID-19.

**A CDSS call on 3/18 said that staff could be hired if they had fingerprinting done in a prior position such as working at a school. How is this verified?**

Waiting for CDSS reply and guidance.