



County of San Diego

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WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

May 4, 2020

TO: Dialysis Facilities
FROM: Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H.,
Public Health Officer & Director, Public Health Services
RE: **COVID-19 DIALYSIS FACILITY MEASURES FOR STAFF AND PATIENTS**

On behalf of the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) Public Health Services Department, I am sending you this letter to update you regarding proper measures to protect your patients and staff from SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). I hope you find this information useful!

[People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis might be at increased risk](#) for serious illness and complications from COVID-19, as per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Moreover, we recognize that staff who care for the patients of renal dialysis facilities are understandably concerned about their own risk of contracting COVID-19, as well as potentially exposing their patients and families.

The County of San Diego recognizes that dialysis facilities are doing everything in their power to protect staff and patients from COVID-19 and its complications. In order to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 entering or to prevent its spread (or outbreak) in your facility, please ensure, if you have not already, that you are aware of and implement the [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\) updated \(March 30th\) guidance for infection prevention and control](#). Also helpful is the [CDC Infection Prevention and Control guidance for dialysis facilities](#). In addition, please note that [CMS Emergency Declaration Blanket Waivers](#) may also be relevant to your operations.

I encourage you to continue to visit the [CDC website](#) for more resources related to dialysis facilities. Also, please visit the [County of San Diego's COVID-19 website](#) to sign up for email updates and to participate on the weekly Healthcare Sector or the Long-term Care Facilities Sector telebriefings. Thank you for your continued support to keep the residents of San Diego County healthy, safe, and thriving.

Sincerely,


WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.
Public Health Officer & Director, Public Health Services

Cc: Helen Robbins-Meyer, County of San Diego, Chief Administrative Officer
Nick Macchione, County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Agency Director