



# County of San Diego

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

May 19, 2020

**TO:** Long-Term Care Facilities  
Correctional Facilities  
Homeless Shelters

**FROM:** Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H.,  
Public Health Officer & Director,  
Public Health Services

**RE: CONGREGATE FACILITIES GUIDANCE FOR COVID-19**

On behalf of the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Public Health Services Department, I am sending you this letter to follow-up on the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) requirements for protecting the vulnerable populations.

Given the congregate nature and population served, the populations of long-term care facilities (e.g., skilled nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities, residential care facilities for the elderly, adult residential facilities), correctional, and homeless shelters (Facilities) may be at higher risk of being affected by COVID-19 and at increased risk for serious illness and complications. The County of San Diego recognizes that Facilities are doing everything in their power to protect their clients from COVID-19 and its complications.

The County of San Diego expects that Facilities are taking the necessary precautions to follow the mandatory requirements of their funding and licensing agencies, in addition to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, to mitigate the risk of individuals at the Facilities contracting COVID-19. This also entails the following:

- The ability to track and notify any receiving Facilities upon the transfer of COVID-19 positive individuals, as appropriate.
- The ability to safely isolate COVID-19 positive individuals.
- The ability to safely quarantine individuals who have been exposed.
- The access to staffing agencies if and when staff shortages related to COVID-19 occur.
- The development of policies and procedures to appropriately train your workforce in infection prevention and control procedures.


Tailored resources and guidance for the Facilities is provided below.

- [CDPH All Facilities Letter 20-52 to Skilled Nursing Facilities \(SNFs\)](#) that includes the Mitigation Plan Implementation and Submission Requirements for SNFs and Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Personnel.
- [CDC Interim Guidance on Management of COVID-19 in Correctional and Detention Facilities.](#)
- [CDC Interim Guidance for Homeless Service Providers](#) to Plan and Respond to COVID-19.
- County of San Diego Public Health Officer [Isolation](#) and [Quarantine](#) Orders.

I encourage you to continue to visit the [CDC COVID-19 website](#) for more resources. Also, on this website, you can sign up for email updates and to participate on the weekly [telebriefings for various community sectors](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at [MOC.PHO.HHSA@sdcountry.ca.gov](mailto:MOC.PHO.HHSA@sdcountry.ca.gov).

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