

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 20-11

Date: 06/29/20

CHANGES TO THE DCFS DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING PROGRAM (PART I)

This FYI is to inform DCFS staff of changes to the DCFS Drug and Alcohol Testing Program. Several changes will become effective July 1, 2020. Additional changes will be implemented in phases and future FYIs will be issued to alert staff of those changes.

The DCFS Drug and Alcohol Testing Program assists CSWs in determining if a DCFS-supervised child/youth can safely remain in the home of his/her parent/caregiver when past or current substance abuse has been identified, as well as to facilitate the reunification of children with their parent(s)/caregiver.

Effective July 1, 2020, the contracted vendor that serves the DCFS Drug and Alcohol Testing Program will remain Pacific Toxicology.

Changes

1. Formal implementation of the use of two (2) new reports addressing the COVID-19 public health crisis will be used in lieu of the routine test results for DCFS clients who are referred to the DCFS Drug and Alcohol Testing Program and are unable to test due to the circumstances below. (Note: These reports were initiated in June 2020.)

The two (2) new reports will be issued for the following circumstances:

- **COVID-19 NO MASK Report:** This is issued when a client arrives at a collection site for testing without a mask or a face covering. The report will indicate that the client did not provide a specimen on the indicated collection date due not having a mask or a face covering. Please note that clients will not be allowed to test on the same day if they return with a mask or face covering.
- **COVID-19 SYMPTOMS Report:** This is issued when a client arrives at a collection site with symptoms or self-discloses symptoms of COVID-19. In this situation, the client will be not permitted to test that day and they will not be permitted to test until they are symptom-free for 14 days. The report will state that the client did not provide a specimen due to COVID-19 symptoms.

The reports will be made available on the next business day the urine sample was scheduled to be collected.



If you have any questions regarding this release please e-mail your question to:

Policy@dcfs.lacounty.gov

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2. Protocol for drug and alcohol testing during the COVID-19 State of Emergency

Pacific Toxicology has established the following protocol with its collection sites and it has been approved by DCFS. (Note: The Protocol was implemented in May 2020.)

- Clients are not allowed to test if they come to the collection site without a mask. Clients will not be permitted to test the same day if they return with a mask, but should arrive for subsequent tests wearing a mask. The collection site will provide that information to the client when the client arrives at the test site.
- Clients with COVID-19 symptoms will not be permitted to test on their test date and they will not be permitted to test until they are symptom-free for 14 days.
- The collection site will give the client a written notice indicating that testing was not performed and the client will not be tested if they return on the same day with a mask and the client should not return to test until they are symptom free or after 14 days have passed.

3. Extension of the DCFS Drug and Alcohol Testing Program's Warm Line Hours

The Warm Line telephone number (877) 688-6942 is maintained by the contracted vendor, Pacific Toxicology. The Warm Line provides consultations for DCFS staff when referring clients to the DCFS Drug and Alcohol Testing Program and, when seeking assistance on resources for out-of-county testing testing of minors, clarification of test results, etc.

DCFS staff may contact the Warm Line during their new business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., or staff may also contact a DCFS Drug and Alcohol Testing Program Manager, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

4. Change in Collection Site Hours of Operation

Effective July 1, 2020, the collection sites will be open between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and the between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

The collection site in Avalon, Catalina Island will continue to be open between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Please note that for some specific zip codes/catchment areas, there may be two (2) collection sites that, combined, covers the full weekday hours of operation from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.



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Staff will be kept apprised of any announcements, including changes in collection site hours and opening and closures of collections sites, etc., regarding the DCFS Drug and Alcohol Testing Program via LA Kids Weekly News as well as on the [DCFS Drug and Alcohol Program website](#).

For questions regarding the DCFS Drug and Alcohol Testing Program, the Program Manager can be contacted at 323-900-2349.



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