

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 20-11 (REV)

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 have been in effect since July 1, 2020.

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.

The contracted vendor that serves the DCFS Drug and Alcohol Testing Program is Pacific Toxicology.

### Modifications for Reporting Drug and Alcohol Testing Results During the State of Emergency

Note: All infection control protocols for maintaining personal safety should be practiced by staff. The Centers for Disease Control guidelines are available on the [CDC website](#).

- Formal implementation of the use of two (2) new reports addressing the COVID-19 public health crisis are now being 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 are being issued for the following circumstances:

1. **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.
2. **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.
  - As part of case planning and delivery of (voluntary and court-ordered) services, CSWs are reminded to document any (non)participation of testing. Further, it is important to document any reports of clients who are experiencing symptoms, or



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tested positive for COVID-19 in order to determine the dates the client is unable to test and, as applicable, ensure to accurately report to the Court the reason why the client received "no show" result(s) for the date(s) in question.

- Upon completion of a client's quarantine, ensure the client resumes testing based on their case plan. Also, if deemed appropriate, CSWs may want to consider having a client on-demand test.
- The reports are made available on the next business day the urine sample was scheduled to be collected.

### **Collection Site Protocol During the State of Emergency**

1. 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 are 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 provides that information to the client when the client arrives at the test site.
  - Clients with COVID-19 symptoms are 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 is to 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.
  - DCFS clients who report having COVID-19 symptoms, or who are COVID-19 positive, should not be referred for drug and alcohol testing. Clients should be symptom-free for 14 days before being sent to test.
  - Clients who inform their CSW that they are not feeling well, have been exposed to COVID-19, are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or who report testing positive for COVID-19, must be excused from testing and should **NOT** be sent to a testing site to obtain a turn-away form. This places staff at the testing sites, as well as other clients, at risk.
  - CSWs should inform clients of the requirement to wear a mask and inform client's that proceeding to a testing site without a mask will be considered a "no show".
  - If a client informs the CSW that they do not have a mask, the CSW is to work with their regional office to make efforts to provide the client with a mask prior to sending the client to a drug testing site.



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- As part of client case planning and delivery of (voluntary and court-ordered) services, CSW should determine if modifications to the case plan and/or court orders (if applicable), are necessary. For court-ordered testing, this includes determining if a request is needed to modify the court order to address a client's inability to complete drug testing (i.e., unable to comply with court-ordered testing).
  - If a notice to the Court and legal parties is needed to modify any drug testing order, confer with the assigned County Counsel and/or out-stationed County Counsel to determine how best to proceed.

## 2. 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 of youth under the age of 18, 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.

## 3. Change in Collection Site Hours of Operation

Effective July 1, 2020, the collection sites are now 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 continues 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.

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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