

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 20-06

Date: 4/10/20

## MEDICAL HUB SERVICES RELATED TO COVID-19

This FYI bulletin is to provide an update to staff regarding COVID-19 issues to consider when placing youth in out-of-home care. Please be advised that directives regarding COVID-19 are being continuously updated as we learn more about the virus. This directive is not intended to supersede subsequent information regarding COVID-19.

Out-of-home caregivers have expressed concerns about their ability to keep children in their care safe and symptom-free of COVID-19, and have requested that DCFS continue to practice full disclosure with them regarding any known exposure to COVID-19 that children had prior to placement, or during visitation with family. CSWs shall inform out-of-home caregivers if anyone with whom a child had contact within the last 14 days has tested positive for, or is symptomatic of COVID-19, or if the child has had any symptoms (i.e., cough, fever, runny nose) within the past 72 hours.

Some out-of-home caregivers have requested that children be tested for COVID-19 prior to accepting them for placement. The [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the Los Angeles County Departments of Public Health and Health Services have set up strict guidelines regarding who may be tested. Testing for COVID-19 is not available for asymptomatic children. If a new placement is needed for a symptomatic child, please consult with the [out-stationed CSWs](#) at any of the Medical Hubs about the availability of medical clearance for the child and for further instructions from the Hub physician on duty.

Current Medical Hub practices specific to COVID-19 are as follows:

1. All Medical Hubs conduct medical clearances on newly detained or replaced children/youth prior to their entry into the new home/facility. A medical clearance is observational in nature and less invasive than the routine [initial medical exam \(IME\); conducted within 30 days of initial removal and placement](#).
2. All Medical Hubs will coordinate with their facility to have COVID-19 testing for [symptomatic](#) DCFS children/youth entering congregate care (i.e., TSCs, STRTPs and GHs), or requiring a new placement. Test results are expected to be returned within 24 hours. The [out-stationed CSW assigned to the aligned Medical Hub](#) is to be contacted to determine the next appropriate steps, which will help the CSW and SCSW to collaborate with the current out-of-home provider to plan for the child/youth's care while awaiting test results. For newly detained children, CSWs shall consult with their SCSW and the child's provider to plan for the child's care while awaiting testing results.



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- 3. Medical Hubs are not testing children/youth who have no symptoms of COVID-19 (i.e., fever, cough, runny nose), even if someone in the household is known to be COVID-19 positive because the test is less accurate in those situations.

Please contact Donna Fernandez, Program Manager, DCFS Child Welfare Health Services Section, at (323) 900-2372, if you have any questions about information in this bulletin.



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CHILD WELFARE HEALTH SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES  
BUREAU OF CLINICAL RESOURCES AND SERVICES  
[Contact Information on the Out-stationed CSWs Serving the Medical Hubs](#)

<b>MEDICAL HUB/ADDRESS</b>	<b>OUT-STATIONED CSW</b>	<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER</b>	<b>E-MAIL ADDRESS</b>
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	Danielle Park	Office: 424-306-7286 Cell: 310-648-2596	<a href="mailto:ParkD@dcfs.lacounty.gov">ParkD@dcfs.lacounty.gov</a>
	SCSW: Tameka Daire	Cell: 626-261-5982	<a href="mailto:DaireT2@dcfs.lacounty.gov">DaireT2@dcfs.lacounty.gov</a>
HIGH DESERT REGIONAL HEALTH CENTER	Lorenzo Caceres	Office: 661-471-4065 Cell: 661- 208-9925	<a href="mailto:cacerla@dcfs.lacounty.gov">cacerla@dcfs.lacounty.gov</a>
	Maria Alvarez	Cell: 661-233-5699	<a href="mailto:AlvarMs@dcfs.lacounty.gov">AlvarMs@dcfs.lacounty.gov</a>
	SCSW: Amy Hunerdosse	Office: 323-965-5171 Cell: 213-407-2761	<a href="mailto:hunera@dcfs.lacounty.gov">hunera@dcfs.lacounty.gov</a>
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