



Message from DCFS Director, Bobby D. Cagle

Dear Valued Partners,

I am reaching out to you on behalf of the entire DCFS Family to assure you that our children's wellbeing remains our highest priority.

This is a stressful time for all of us and I want to assure you that County of Los Angeles officials are working diligently to address concerns and prevent the spread of the Novel Coronavirus, or COVID-19, as much as possible. As our Resource Families, Relative Caregivers, and Service Providers, we want to ensure that you have access to accurate information and guidance about what can be done to minimize the risk of infection and further transmission of COVID-19.

What to Know

It is important to understand how COVID-19 is spread, what steps to take to prevent infection, and what to do if you suspect you may be infected. COVID-19 spreads in much the same way as influenza, or the flu. An infected person can spread the virus through close physical contact or through droplets produced by coughing or sneezing. The virus can also live on surfaces touched by an infected person, which can spread to others who touch it and then touch their eyes, nose, or mouth.

What to Do

There are a number of things you can do to protect yourself and others:

- 1. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water aren't available, use a hand sanitizer;*
- 2. Clean and disinfect surfaces in high traffic areas—like door knobs—or objects that are used frequently, such as toys. Don't share utensils, cups, food, or drinks;*
- 3. Limit contact with anyone who may be sick;*
- 4. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth;*
- 5. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If you do not have a tissue, use your sleeve (not your hands);*
- 6. Use facemasks only if you are sick or have been instructed to do so by your health care provider;*
- 7. Get a flu shot to prevent influenza if you have not done so this season;*
- 8. Stay home or keep children home if they are feeling unwell. If you feel that you are experiencing flu-like symptoms, please contact your primary healthcare professional; and*
- 9. If a child residing in your care experiences flu-like symptoms, contact the child's primary healthcare professional.*

Your wellbeing is extremely important to us. Remember, children often feel what you feel. Answering their questions and providing honest and age-appropriate information, is often best.

Although facts and circumstances are changing quickly, rest assured that DCFS personnel is meeting with public health officials regularly, and will continue to keep our caregivers apprised of any new developments. DCFS social workers will continue to conduct monthly home visits and will call to complete a health pre-screening of those in the home.



For additional guidance please see the [Coronavirus Fact Sheet from the Department of Public Health](#) or check with the following trusted sources for the latest accurate information:

- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH, County) <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH, State) <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, National) <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html>
- World Health Organization (WHO, International) <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

You can also visit the DCFS website at www.dcfs.lacounty.gov and follow us on social media for updates. If you have questions or need further information, please call the DCFS Warmline at (877) 323-7165 or LA County 211 at (800) 339-6993 or by dialing 2-1-1.

Thank you for your continued support of Los Angeles County's children and families.

Bobby

