



KERN REGIONAL CENTER

*Striving to Achieve Equality,
Independence and Empowerment*

ALL VENDOR ADVISORY

Date: March 12, 2020
To: All Vendors
From: Suzanne Toothman
Program Manager, Community Services Department
RE: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Dear Vendors,

Kern Regional Center continues to monitor the outbreak of the virus known as Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). We are reaching out to you today to provide you with general information and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the County Officer of Public Health and the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) regarding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). KRC encourages our service providers to follow the preventative strategies developed by the CDC. As stated by the CDC, the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus. The following preventative actions are recommended to prevent the spread of this respiratory disease:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick,
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth,
- Stay home when you are sick,
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash,
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipes,
- Follow CDC's recommendations of using a facemask:
 - CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19,
 - Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).
- Wash your hands often with soap and water at least 20 seconds, especially after using the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol based sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

As a service provider, you are encouraged to review your existing plans and procedures for emergencies, universal precautions and isolation. If individuals present with respiratory symptoms or you believe that they have been exposed to COVID-19, contact their healthcare provider immediately. Please notify the doctor's office before taking people in so that the receiving facility can take the necessary precautions.

If you suspect an outbreak of COVID-19 in your organization, please contact your local health department immediately and follow their instructions. Service providers need to contact the regional center immediately and submit a Special Incident Report (SIR) if you become aware of client that **has been diagnosed** with COVID-19.

Governor Newsom announced on March 11, 2020 that California public health officials issued an update policy on gatherings to protect public health and slow the spread of COVID-19 with guidance to the public that gatherings of more than 250 people "...should be postponed or cancelled across the state until the end of March". Smaller events can proceed only if the organizers

can implement social distancing of 6 feet per person. Gathering of individuals who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 should be limited to no more than 10 people, while also following social distancing guidelines”.

For additional information on gatherings, go to the link provided below.

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Gathering_Guidance_03.11.20.pdf

Latest information and updates on COVID-19

For in depth information we would direct you to the California Department of Public Health

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>

Centers for Disease Control/Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Governor’s Office of Emergency Services

<https://www.caloes.ca.gov/>

Inyo County Public Health and Prevention Division

<https://www.inyocounty.us/services/health-human-services/public-health-and-prevention-division>

Kern County Public Health Services Department

<https://kernpublichealth.com>

The state is aware of the economic impact these policies and as a result has issued as part of the State of Emergency declared for California, the following;

Department of Developmental Services (Department) is authorizing, pursuant to Title 17, California Code of Regulations section 54326(a)(11), regional centers to pay vendors for absences that are the direct result of the COVID-19 outbreak in California. The applicable regulation section reads as follows:

“[All vendors shall...] Not bill for consumer absences for nonresidential services. The Department shall authorize payment for absences which are the direct result of situations and/or occurrences for which a State of Emergency has been declared by the Governor. If payment for absences due to a State of Emergency is authorized by the Department, the vendor shall bill only for absences in excess of the average number of absences experienced by the vendor during the 12-month period prior to the month in which the disaster occurred.”

KRC is constantly monitoring information about Coronavirus in all three counties and will continue to reach out when new information is released that affects KRC, the people that we serve, and to our service provider community. We are grateful for your service to our community and the people that we serve.

Enclosures

CC: Vendor Files
Cherylle Mallinson, Director of Community Services
Dr. Michi Gates, Executive Director
Celia Pinal, Director of Client Services