

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

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April 21, 2021

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVE 02-042121: VISITS TO INDIVIDUALS
RESIDING IN LICENSED RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES

This supersedes the Department of Developmental Services' (Department or DDS) [March 23, 2020 Directive](#) regarding visits to licensed residential facilities, and the [March 23, 2020 Directive](#) regarding immediate COVID-19 risk mitigation strategies for Adult Residential Facilities for Persons with Special Health Care Needs and Intermediate Care Facilities/Developmentally Disabled-Continuous Nursing.

Due to the ongoing incidence of COVID-19 and associated risks, it is recommended that individuals who reside in licensed residential settings continue to utilize caution when considering in-person visits with family and friends. If and when personal visits occur, such visits shall be conducted in accordance with local county public health orders and relevant guidelines issued by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and/or California Department of Public Health (CDPH). If there are differing requirements between the most current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDSS, CDPH, DDS, and local health department guidance or health orders, **licensees should follow the strictest requirements**. However, there may be times where a licensee will need to contact their regional center for assistance in reconciling these differences, especially if the requirements appear to be in conflict with the best interest of residents.

Regional center staff shall work with service providers to ensure visitation and risk mitigation protocols are in compliance with the most restrictive local, state and federal guidelines for COVID-19 safety at the time. Please refer to the Department's April 21, 2021 Directive regarding resuming in-person monitoring visits.

Regional centers and service providers must work collaboratively to advise individuals, families, staff, and others, as necessary, of precautionary measures involved in upcoming visits.

“Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices”

Regional Center Executive Directors
April 21, 2021
Page two

Parents, guardians, authorized legal representatives and service providers should contact their local regional center with any questions regarding this Directive. Questions from regional centers should be directed to DDSC19Directives@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

NANCY BARGMANN
Director

cc: Regional Center Board Presidents
Regional Center Administrators
Regional Center Directors of Consumer Services
Regional Center Community Services Directors
Association of Regional Center Agencies