



THE COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING DIVISION'S

Quarterly Update

SUMMER 2020

CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL QUARTERLY UPDATE

Children's Residential Licensing Program Mission:

To protect and improve the lives of all youth who reside in a community care facility through the administration of a transparent licensing system that is collaborative, fair, and supportive of families.

A Note from Pamela Dickfoss, Deputy Director

As we look for alternative ways to celebrate during these summer months in a way that helps ensure the health and well-being of ourselves, our families, and communities, we would like to celebrate you for the continued care you provide to California's young children and youth. I am grateful for your commitment and continue to encourage you to take all the necessary precautions that will enable our State to overcome the current public health crisis.

I also would like to recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic is not the only public health crisis facing our nation. As a society we have struggled to address the profound inequities created by laws and systems that continue to disadvantage Black communities and other communities of color. While we have made progress over time, the current social movement for racial equity spotlights how race continues to determine the outcomes of our lives in ways that are deeply unfair to communities amongst people of color. And like COVID-19, overcoming the effects of structural racism will also require a collective effort.

At CDSS we believe that as providers who care for or protect the health and safety of some of the most vulnerable Californians, this is a moment to reflect on how we can ensure that we are developing and implementing anti-racist policies and practices that enable everyone to thrive. We would like to partner with you in this effort by providing you with information and tools. We are also including resources with practical information about how providers can assess organizational current practices, as well as tips for how to institutionalize new systems and approaches that can bring about more equitable outcomes. We hope you will find this information helpful and are eager to continue to work in partnership.

EXAMPLES OF INEQUITIES IN OUR SYSTEMS

Adult and Senior Care

- Access to translation/interpretation for limited-English proficient residents

Child Care and ECE

- Highly segregated environments
- Disproportionate rates of expulsion of Black boys

Children's Residential

- Overrepresentation of Black and Native American children and youth in the child welfare system and in congregate care

Workforce across ASC, CRP, CCP, and HCO

- Inequities in the workforce: low pay primarily impacting women of color

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Stay Informed on COVID-19

With new information about the global outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) developing every day, it's important now more than ever to be prepared and stay informed. There are numerous resources available to help you do so, which will enable you to take preventative measures to keep your residents, families and staff safe during this health crisis.

The Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) regularly sends information to providers and stakeholders by way of Provider Information Notices (PINs). CCLD has utilized PINs during this health crisis to alert providers to important COVID-19 related information. If you have not yet signed up to receive our PINs, you can do so by going to the CCLD website and [requesting to receive important updates](#). By entering your e-mail address, you will be able to receive this information directly.

Health guidelines can vary by county and state, so it is important to keep up with information at all levels. The following resources are available:

[World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) - These materials are regularly updated based on new scientific findings as the epidemic evolves.

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) - The dedicated COVID-19 page provides the most up-to-date information on the overall situation, steps to prevent illness, symptoms, common questions, and information for specific audiences.

[California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#) For the latest COVID-19 information and updates in the State of California.

[Community Care Licensing Division \(CCLD\)](#) COVID-19 related Provider Information Notices (PIN) and other resources.

[The National Association of County and City Health Officials \(NACCHO\)](#) - Directory of local health departments. NACCHO has created a tool to help you search for local health departments in your area.

[California COVID-19 website](#) – California's COVID-19 website providing the latest directives, resources and positive cases being reported.

Food and Drug Administration Warning on Hand Sanitizers with Methanol

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a warning to consumers and health care providers about hand sanitizer products that are labeled as containing ethanol (also known as ethyl alcohol) that have tested positive for methanol contamination. Methanol (i.e., methyl alcohol or wood alcohol) is a substance that can be toxic when absorbed through the skin or ingested and can be life-threatening when ingested. As per the FDA news update hyperlinked below, “Methanol is not an acceptable active ingredient for hand sanitizers and must not be used due to its toxic effects. FDA’s investigation of methanol in certain hand sanitizers is ongoing. The agency will provide additional information as it becomes available.”

Please see the full [FDA news update on hand sanitizers with methanol](#) for further information.

Wildfire Season Through a COVID Lens

Provider Information Notice [PIN 20-13-CCLD](#) – Preparation for Extreme Heat, Public Safety Power Shutoffs and Wildfire Emergencies includes information about factors that led to previous wildfire seasons becoming so destructive. It warns that California may no longer have a wildfire “season” but rather a year-round risk of wildfires, and provides the following wildfire preparation tips:

- Create a “Wildfire Action Plan”
- Make sure that smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers are always in place and working
- Have a portable radio or scanner to stay updated on fires
- Create a defensible space around the facility by trimming trees and clearing away debris

How do I make a disaster plan during a pandemic?

Plan what you will do before, during, and after each type of disaster. Different emergencies require different actions to stay safe.

- Review the [Red Cross Emergency Library](#) for safety checklists and information

- Download the free [Red Cross Emergency App](#) for safety tips, severe weather alerts and more
- Get accurate information on how to protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID-19 from [the CDC](#) and [the Red Cross](#).

[Ready.gov](#) notes that, since Spring of 2020, the CDC has recommended people include additional items in their emergency kits to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 or other viruses and the flu. This list now includes: [cloth face coverings](#) (for everyone ages 2 and above), soap, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes to disinfect surfaces, etc. For a complete list, please visit the [website](#).



Public Safety Power Shutoffs

Due to devastating wildfires in recent years, energy companies may initiate Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS), as a preemptive firefighting strategy, in locations experiencing critical weather such as high winds and dry conditions. Because energy systems rely on power lines working together to provide electricity across cities, counties and regions, the power may also be shut off in areas not experiencing high winds or other extreme weather conditions.

In the event of a PSPS, your facility should be prepared to operate for several hours to several days without electricity, depending on the severity of the weather and other factors. Backup generators can be a valuable part of a facility's emergency preparedness plan when a power outage occurs. In anticipation of public safety power shutoffs, CCLD reminds providers to give their energy company up-to-date contact information to ensure prompt notification when electricity must be turned off for public safety.

You may need to communicate with your local government and utility company for more specific assistance and of course, stay in

Water Safety and COVID-19

During the hot Summer months, it is common for providers to allow the children they care for to swim and have other water play time. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) says that there is no evidence that the virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to people through the water in pools, hot tubs, or water playgrounds.

Providers should exercise caution when facilitating water play, follow all [water safety](#)

Summer Heat Safety Precautions

With the fun and enjoyment summer weather can bring, there are also heat-related safety precautions that should be taken to protect

communication with your regional office. In addition, the [Governor's Power Outage and Fire Response website](#) is designed to provide resources you may need in the event of wildfires and power shutoffs. For important updates, please regularly visit the [CCLD Provider Information Notices \(PINs\)](#) for the Children's Residential Program.

The following are resources provide guidance for backup generator safety and power outages.

- [The Power of Being Prepared](#)
- [Backup Power Options](#)
- [Home Safety Tips](#) (Click on Generators Section under Home Safety Tips)
- [Carbon Monoxide – Generator Safety Fact Sheet](#)
- [The Power of Being Prepared](#)
- [Public Safety Power Shutoff – Resource Guide](#)
- [Preparing Your Facility for Power Outages Checklist](#)

[guidelines and supervision](#), and adhere to physical distancing measures. Follow the [CDC precautions](#) to protect yourselves, the children you care for and other community members.



infants and young children. This is because they are less able to regulate the build-up of body heat than older children or adults. Youth engaging in

outdoor sports are at an increased risk of heat-related illnesses due to the young body's inability to further regulate heat. Typical [symptoms](#) to look out for include: headaches, dizziness, nausea, and/or loss of consciousness.

Despite these risks, outside time is still an important part of Summer. Here are some things to remember:

- Never leave infants, children, or pets in a parked car, even if the windows are cracked open.
- Dress infants and children in loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing.
- Schedule outdoor activities carefully, focusing on morning and evening hours and avoiding the hottest parts of the day when possible.
- Hydrate often
- Keep a comfortable temperature inside at all times.



The following is a list of additional resources on this subject:

Provider Information Notice (PIN)

[Racial Equity: Learn More & Resources](#)

Learn More About the Issues

The [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#) is a services of the [Children's Bureau](#), Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It promotes the safety, permanency, and well-being of children, youth, and families and has many resources dedicated to advancing racial equity, including:

- [Racial Disproportionality and Disparity in Child Welfare](#)
- [Key Equity Terms & Concepts: A Glossary for Shared Understanding](#)

Resources for Practitioners

Racial equity resources from the [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#):

- [Promoting Racial Equity Through Workforce & Organizational Actions](#)
- [Identifying & Mitigating Implicit Bias Guidance & Strategies for Institutional Transformation](#)

[inSIGHT: A Workshop on Implicit Racial Bias for Child Protection](#): The Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) developed inSIGHT: A Workshop on Implicit Racial Bias in Child Protection in collaboration with the [Kirwan Institute](#) for the Study of Race and Ethnicity.

[PIN 20-13-CCLD – Preparation for Extreme Heat, Public Safety Power Shutoffs, and Wildfire Emergencies](#)

Group Homes & STRTPs:

[Title 22 Section 80065\(e\) and \(f\)\(5\) – Personnel Requirements](#)

[Title 22 Section 80087\(e\) – Buildings and Grounds](#)

[Title 22 Section 80088\(a\)\(1\) and \(1\)\(A\) – Fixtures, Furniture, Equipment and Supplies](#)

[Title 22 Section 84087.2\(a\)\(5\) and \(5\)\(A\) – Outdoor Activity Space](#) (Group Homes Only)

[STRTP Interim Licensing Standards Section 87087.2\(a\)\(5\) – Outdoor Activity Space](#)

Foster Family Homes:

[Title 22 Section 89323 – Emergency Procedures](#)

[Title 22 Section 89387\(e\) to \(h\) & \(l\) – Buildings and Grounds](#)

Resource Family Homes:

[FFA Interim Licensing Standards Section 88487.1\(a\)\(6\) – Home and Grounds](#)

[FFA Interim Licensing Standards Section 88487.2\(b\) to \(e\) – Outdoor Activity Space](#)

[FFA Interim Licensing Standards Section 88487.5 – Emergency Procedures](#)

Centers for Disease Control Tool:

[Beating the Heat](#)

IMPORTANT INFO AND PHONE NUMBERS

Centralized Complaint Information Bureau (CCIB)	1-844-538-8766
Foster Care Audits and Rates Branch	916-651-9152
Continuum of Care Reform Branch	916-651-5240
Caregiver Background Check Bureau (CBCB)	1-888-422-5669
Foster Care Ombudsman	1-877-846-1602
CCL Public Inquiry and Response	916-651-8848
Technical Support Program	916-654-1541



Are you interested in becoming part of the Community Care Licensing team?

Please apply at: [CalCareers](#)

Information on how to apply for a State job can be found at the [Cal Career website](#).

Program Administrator: Jean Chen
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