

May 1, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
California State Capitol  
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, California 95814

Mark Ghaly, M.D.  
Secretary, Health and Human Services Agency  
1600 Ninth Street, Room 460  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sonia Angell, M.D.  
Director, Department of Public Health  
P.O. Box 997377, M.S. 0500  
Sacramento, CA 95899

Dear Governor Newsom, Secretary Ghaly and Director Angell:

In order to keep both providers and their clients safe and healthy, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be provided to and prioritized for workers who provide in-home services to persons with disabilities either through In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) or through the Regional Centers (RC). The current guidelines published 4/14/20 at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/UseofPersonalProtectiveEquipmentduringCOVID19.aspx> are focused on how to protect "healthcare workers or social services workers who are performing direct patient care." All workers who are providing direct care regardless of whether the client is showing symptoms of COVID-19 should as a preventative measure be provided necessary PPE to keep both themselves and their clients safe.

People with disabilities and older adults are at greater risk for acquiring COVID-19. Research shows that deaths related to COVID-19 will be likely more prevalent among people with disabilities. For example, Syracuse University published a report stating "Death rates from pneumonia are between 2.2 times and 5.8 times higher among individuals with an IDD than among those without IDD, giving us a clear warning of the severity of COVID-19 among people with IDD. In 2017, 10.2% of deaths among people with Down Syndrome were attributed to pneumonia, 9.1% for people with cerebral palsy, and 7.8% for people with an intellectual disability. Given the existing propensity for acute respiratory disease, COVID-19 care for people with disabilities must be intentionally considered and preventatively factored into the DPH's guidance. Because the risk is so high, people are turning away service providers at the door.

The undersigned organizations request that the California Department of Public Health update its guidance documents to specifically recognize the unique needs of persons with disabilities, older adults and their caregivers regardless of whether the person receiving services is showing possible signs of infection. The appropriate use of PPE as

a preventative measure as well as social distancing and other precautionary measures will have the greatest impact of slowing the spread of COVID-19 among those already at higher risk for it and death from it.

Sincerely,

California State Council on Developmental Disabilities

A Diversified Family

Abad Group Home, Inc

ABC Mendocino County

AbilityFirst

Abrajano Group Homes Inc.

Access Community Services

Access in Home Care Referral Agency, LLC.

Accredited Respite Services

Adaptive Learning Center

Adult Community Independence, Inc.

Aging Services Collaborative of Santa Clara County

AIM

Ala Costa Centers

Alameda County Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters

Alchemia

Alliant Insurance Services

Alpha Resource Center or Santa Barbara

Amani Day Services

Amato Home

AMJaMB Supported Living Services

Arm in Arm Supported Living Services, LLC

Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA)

Astrid Rieber Bilingual SLP

Autism Aspergers Spectrum Coalition for Education Networking and Development

Autism Society California

Autism Society of Los Angeles

Autism Spectrum Therapies  
Autistic Women's Alliance  
Autistry Studios  
Aveanna Healthcare  
Aven Care Providers  
Avenues Supported Living Services  
B and B Learn and Play  
Barton Orthodontics  
Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee, State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Beacons, Inc.  
Becky Coffey, ILS  
Big Moves Inc.  
Birth and Family Services  
Bixby Knolls Place  
Blue Eagle Villas  
Blue Eagle Villas 2  
Brilliant Corners  
Building Bridges for Special Needs - Coachella Valley  
California Association of Public Authorities for In-Home Support Services  
California Disability Services Association  
California In-Home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance  
California People First  
California Respite Association  
California Supported Living Network  
Californians for Disability Rights  
Cal-TASH  
CalWes Homes, Inc.  
Camptonville Union Elementary School District  
CAPC, Inc.  
Care Parent Network/VistAbility  
Careco Inc.

CareMax  
Castana Home Care  
CCCIL  
Cedars  
Central Coast Regional Advisory Committee, State Council on Developmental  
Disabilities  
Cerritos Home Care  
Channel Islands Social Services  
Children's Therapy Works  
CHOICES-Community Housing Options  
Club ASPIRE/CMWIA  
College Nannies, Sitters + Tutors  
Comforcare  
Community Access Center  
Community and Partnership Services  
Community Catalysts of California  
Community Connections  
Community Employment Services  
Community Living Options  
Compass, LLC  
Congress of California Seniors  
Connections For Life  
Contra Costa Labor Council, AFL-CIO  
County Welfare Directors Association of California  
CPAD  
Creative Living Options  
Creative Minds ADP, Inc.  
Creative Minds ILS/SLS  
Creative Support  
Creative Support Alternatives  
Cusrow Bhada

Dae Cordial Manor  
Dale Law Firm, PC  
Del Sol Homes, Inc.  
Disability Action Center  
Disability Community Resource Center, Inc.  
Disability Resource Agency for Independent Living  
Disability Rights California  
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund  
Disability Voices United  
Doorways Supported Living  
Early Childhood Special Education Infant-Toddler Program, San Diego  
East Bay Innovations, ILS  
East Bay Legislative Coalition  
Easterseals Southern California  
ELM Services  
Empower  
Encourage Active Learning, Inc.  
Engle Small Home  
Enjoy Life More, Inc.  
Escuela De La Raza Unida Inc.  
ETTA  
Exceptional Childrens Foundation  
Exceptional Family Center  
Executive Compass  
Explorer Development Center  
Expressive Connections  
Family Resource Navigators  
Family Resource Network  
Family Voices of California  
Fenix Home  
Flagship Group LLC

Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center  
Francisquito Homes  
Full Circle of Choices, Inc.  
G&C Adult Residential Facility Inc.  
Gabriella Motherly Care  
Get Psyched! LLC  
GMS ARF  
Golden Gate Regional Center  
Golden Gate Regional Center Service Provider Advisory Committee  
Gratia Home  
Gratus Services Group, Inc.  
GSG Support Services  
Hand in Hand: The Domestic Employers Network  
Harbor Regional Center  
Harbor Supported Living Services  
Harmony Home, Associated  
Harvest Moon ICF/DDN  
Hayward Area Recreation and Park District - Sorensdale Recreation Center  
Heather's House  
HM Systems, Inc.  
Home of Guiding Hands  
Home Sweet Home  
Hope House for the Multiple-Handicapped, Inc.  
Hope Services  
Horizon Day Program  
Housing Choices  
Howard Chudler & Associates  
Hyperion Behavioral Health Center  
I.L.R.- Solano  
Ian Leonard, BCBA  
ICR

Ideal Care Supported Living Services  
IGNITE Collective, Inc.  
In2vision Programs, LLC  
Inalliance  
Inclusive Education and Community Partnership  
Independence For Life Choices, Inc  
Independent Endeavor, inc  
Independent Living Resource Center San Francisco  
Individualized Educational Services  
Infant Development Association of California  
Institute For Applied Behavior Analysis  
Integrated Community Collaborative  
Integrated Community Services  
Integrated Resources Institute  
J & S Board and Care  
Japanese Speaking Parents Association of Children with Challenges  
Jay Homes, Inc.  
Jay Nolan Community Services  
Jayden's Home Care, Inc.  
JJ Adult Care Home  
JJ Qual Care Home  
JLA Special Needs Trust & Services  
Jombert Corp  
Journey of Choice, Inc.  
Justice in Aging  
Kids First Pediatric Therapy, Inc.  
La Familia  
Language to Learning, Inc.  
Las Trampas School, Inc.  
Leading Personal Care Agency  
Life Steps Foundation Inc.

Life Steps Foundation, SoCal Adult Services  
Life Works  
Lifehouse  
Lighthouse Living Services Red Bluff  
Lincoln Training Center  
Little Red Wagon Supported Living Services  
Living Inside The Puzzle Support Group  
Loop Home Foundation  
Los Angeles Asperger Syndrome Parent Support Group  
Los Angeles Coalition of Service Providers  
Los Angeles Regional Advisory Committee, State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Lucky Homes 2 and New Life Homes B & C  
Lynn & Darla Supported Living Services  
M3 Day Program  
Making Headway Center for Brain Injury Recovery  
Manos  
Marin Ventures  
McGarvey Home  
Meadow Creek Home  
Millmont Homes Inc.  
Mi Sue Speech Therapy Inc  
Monterey County Aging and Adult Services  
Mother Lode Rehabilitation Enterprises Inc  
Multiplicity Therapeutic Services  
Napa Solano Central Labor Council  
National Domestic Workers Alliance  
National Support Services Inc  
Networx Supported Living Services  
New Horizons: Serving Individuals with Special Needs  
New Leaf Solutions



Nimbus  
NJA Therapy Services Inc.  
No Ordinary Moments  
Noah Homes, Inc  
Normadie Place ICF-DDN  
North Peninsula Day Services  
NorthStar Services  
Novelles Developmental Services  
Oaks of Hebron, Inc.  
One Step Beyond Disability Services  
One Step Closer  
Open House Center  
Opportunity for Independence  
Options For All  
Our Houses  
OVs Guest Home  
Pacific Behavior Assessment and Intervention Services  
Pacific Homecare Services  
Pacific Medical Resources  
PALACIOS Adult Residential Facility  
Paragon Home  
PARCA  
Parenthood Partners and Family Services, LLC  
Parents Empowering Parents Special Needs Support Group  
ParentsCAN  
Parkwood Home  
Partner of Change  
Partnerships With Industry  
Passport To Learning  
Pathpoint Inc.  
Pathway to Choices Inc

People Creating Success  
People's Care  
Personal Assistance Services Council  
Pioneer Homes of California, Inc  
Pivot Neurodiversity  
Placer Independent Resource Services  
Plumas Rural Services  
Pomeroy Recreation and Rehabilitation Center  
Powell House, Inc.  
Premier Healthcare Services, an Aveanna Company  
Priors Board and Care  
Pristine Rehab Care  
Progressive Employment Concepts  
Quality Connections Living Services Inc.  
Quiroz Residential  
Recess Therapy  
Redwood Coast Regional Center  
Regional Center of the East Bay  
Regional Center of the East Bay Provider Vendor Advisory Committee  
Reimagine Network  
Reyes Ranch, LLC  
Ridge Gate Haven  
Rolling Start, Inc.  
Rosil Inc.  
Sacramento Regional Advisory Committee, State Council on Developmental  
Disabilities  
San Bernardino Regional Advisory Committee, State Council on Developmental  
Disabilities  
San Diego Unified School District  
San Diego Unified School District Community Advisory Committee for Special  
Education

San Felipe Supported Living, Inc.  
San Francisco Labor Council, AFL-CIO  
San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center  
San Mateo Labor Council  
Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese  
Sapphire GEM Home Care  
SEIU Local 2015  
Sherwood Forest Manor Homes  
Silicon Valley Independent Living Center  
Silo's Community Service  
Smile Pediatric Therapy & Diagnostics, Inc.  
Social Vocational Services, Inc.  
SOCO  
Special Care Services  
Special Kids Connect  
Speech Guy, LLC  
Spread Your Wings, LLC  
St. Madeleine Sophie's Center  
State Independent Living Council  
STEP Inc.  
Sunbright Homecare  
Sunpoint Home LLC  
Support for Families  
Supported Life Institute  
Tailored Living Choices, Crisis & Transitional Home  
TASH  
TERI Inc.  
The Adult Skills Center  
The Arc - Solano  
The Arc & UCP California Collaborative  
The Arc Fresno/Madera Counties

The Arc Imperial Valley  
The Arc Los Angeles & Orange Counties  
The Arc of Amador and Calaveras  
The Arc of Placer County  
The Arc of Riverside County  
The Arc of San Diego  
The Arc of San Diego / Parent Infant Program  
The Arc of San Francisco  
The Arc of the East Bay  
The Arc of Ventura County  
The Arc of Ventura County  
The Arc San Francisco  
The Arc San Joaquin  
The Arc South Bay  
The Arc-Solano  
The Bakersfield Arc  
The California Foundation for Independent Living Centers  
The Center for Independent Living  
The Dayle McIntosh Center  
Three Oaks, Inc.  
Tierra del Sol Foundation  
TOTAL Programs  
Toward Maximum Independence  
Transition to Independence, Inc.  
Tri Counties Regional Center  
Tri-County Caregiver Relief  
Tri-County Independent Living  
Trinity County IHSS Public Authority  
UCP of the Inland Empire  
UCP of Los Angeles  
UCP of Orange County

UCP of Sacramento/N.California  
UCP of San Diego County  
UCP of San Joaquin, Calaveras and Amador Counties  
UCP of Stanislaus  
UCP of the North Bay  
UCPCC  
UDW/AFSCME Local 3930  
Ukiah Valley Association for Habilitation  
Unidos con Mision y Poder  
Valley Mountain Regional Center  
Valley Village  
Villa Esperanza Services  
Villa Maria Care Home  
Visbal Strategic Consulting  
WarmLine Family Resource Center  
Wayfinder Family Services  
Westside Family Resource and Empowerment Center  
Woodbridge Clayton  
Woodbridge Home  
Woodbridge Trifari  
Woodsmall Family Home  
Yearling ARF Inc  
YMCA of San Diego County  
Young Interventions, Inc.

While the letter is focused on organizational signatures from state, regional and local organizations, an additional 89 individuals who have disabilities, are family members or services providers also submitted sign-ons.