

Employee Guidance due to COVID 19

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) is front and center on everyone's minds right now. We recognize this is an anxious time for many of our employees and families, with evolving advice from public health departments and our government. We are all doing our best to provide support to those most in need, and answer questions as they arise.

This document is intended as general guidance related to the care our organization provides. It is a living document and will be updated and published as major changes in our provision of care take place. As this document is updated, new or revised guidance will be noted with the posted dates below. Please review the information below and contact our office should you have any questions or concerns. Regardless of the guidance below, if you feel that you cannot or should not provide or receive care from our organization right now for any reason, we support your choice. Please let us know so that we can plan accordingly.

Please help us be a source of information and reassurance to our families and only reference factual information from credible sources. We rely upon information primarily from the CDC and CDPH (California Department of Public Health).

Care Considerations:

1. Should I be doing anything differently due to COVID-19? Yes, you should be extra cautious about only providing care when you (and your household members) AND the person in care (and their household members) are not ill AND have not been around people who have been ill. You should also:

- Call the family at least two hours prior to each scheduled shift to make sure care is still advisable.
- As soon as you arrive in the family's home you must wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, dry them with a paper towel, and wash your hands and the hands of the person in your care often.
- You should also communicate with the family about the need for you to perform additional cleaning of surfaces while you are providing care. Never leave chemicals in reach of children or adults in your care!
- All Respite Care Providers, are recommended to provide care using a non-medical facemask. If you have difficulty obtaining a masks or any PPE as recommended by the Center of Disease Control contact your Human Resources representative. [Click here for information.](#)
- You should, whenever possible, practice social distancing while providing care. It is critical to maintain 6-foot social distancing in addition to a mask to slow the spread of the virus. Please review the CDC guidelines here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>

2. The CA Governor recommended on 3/16/2020 that people age 65+ home isolate. Can I still provide/receive care if I want to? Yes, but this should be carefully assessed by you and the families you support. If you are over age 65, you may wish to follow the State's recommendations. If the person in your care is over age 65 and they have support at home from family, everyone may wish to postpone care and follow the advice out of an abundance of caution.

3. The child or person I care for has a compromised immune system or increased risk for respiratory illness, can I still provide care? This is not advised at this time unless you already live with the person in care. All care should be carefully considered with the family. If you both decide to continue care, please follow universal precautions and CDC guidelines mentioned above.

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4. **If I have symptoms that may just be allergies or a common cold, should I work?** Do not work. At this time, our community is taking extra precautionary steps to prevent the spread of any illnesses. You are advised to self-isolate until you can be sure that you do not have a fever or cough, and you are not exhibiting any symptoms of illness that could spread to others.

5. **Can the family I support receive more respite hours since schools are closed for a few weeks?** This is up to the Regional Center. Please direct the family to contact their case worker about their needs.

6. **The person in my care requires personal care, should I still work? Who supplies the protective equipment?** That is an individual decision to be made by the employee and the family. Some employees may choose to provide care if the family provides gloves, some families may take over personal care and have the Respite Caregiver provide general supervision at this time. Please hold these discussions with the families. If a family cannot provide gloves, employees may contact the office to inquire about other options (dependent upon limited supplies in the community.)

*****As a reminder, until further notice, Respite Care Providers are only allowed to provide services to one (1) family*****

*****As a reminder, ALL Respite Care Providers ARE RECOMMENDED TO provide care with a non-medical mask*****