

April 17, 2020

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 20-41**

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to inform counties that the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released guidance on April 14, 2020, clarifying that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be made available for healthcare workers or social services workers who are performing direct patient care. Therefore, in accordance with this guidance, PPE is being made available to Public Authority (PA) offices in each county for distribution to In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Providers who meet the CDPH criteria for ***Persons Taking Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19 in Non-Healthcare Settings.***



KIM JOHNSON  
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • [www.cdss.ca.gov](http://www.cdss.ca.gov)



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

April 17, 2020

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 20-41

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS  
PUBLIC AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR IN-HOME  
SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PROVIDERS DUE TO COVID-19**

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to inform counties that the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released guidance on April 14, 2020, clarifying that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be made available for healthcare workers or social services workers who are performing direct patient care. Therefore, in accordance with this guidance, PPE is being made available to In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Public Authority (PA) offices in each county for distribution to IHSS Providers who meet the CDPH criteria for ***Persons Taking Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19 in Non-Healthcare Settings***. Each set of PPE will include a face mask and a pair of gloves. The total number of PPE sets that will be distributed to PA offices statewide is 250,000.

**CDPH CRITERIA FOR PERSONS TAKING CARE OF INDIVIDUALS WITH SUSPECT  
OR CONFIRMED COVID-19 IN NON-HEALTH CARE SETTINGS**

IHSS providers need PPE when they perform direct patient care at home or other non-healthcare settings and have prolonged, close direct contact with recipients with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection or their bodily fluids. The CDPH's guidance can be found at the following link:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/UseofPersonalProtectiveEquipmentduringCOVID19.aspx>

Additionally, the link below demonstrates how to properly put on and remove the PPE:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/ppe-sequence.pdf>

PPE does not guarantee total protection and must be used in combination with precautionary measures such as those below to be most effective.

- Washing hands with soap and water.
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces daily. If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Covering coughs or sneezes with a tissue or elbow.
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick.
- Staying away from work, school or other people if sick with respiratory symptoms like fever and cough.
- Following guidance from public health officials, such as staying home if over the age of 65 or with underlying health conditions.

IHSS recipients should inform their IHSS providers if they have tested positive for COVID-19, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, or if they are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19. This will allow IHSS providers the opportunity to request PPE from their county's PA office.

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, contact the Financial Management Unit (FMU), Adult Programs Division (APD) at (916) 652-3850 or at [APD\\_FMU@dss.ca.gov](mailto:APD_FMU@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By***

DEBBI THOMPSON  
Deputy Director  
Adult Programs Division