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GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

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PIN 20-14-CCLD

TO: ALL ADULT CARE, SENIOR CARE, AND CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL  
LICENSED PROVIDERS

FROM: *Original signed by Pamela Dickfoss*  
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SUBJECT: **GUIDANCE FOR SANITIZING LAUNDRY AND A LIMITED WAIVER OF  
HOT WATER TEMPERATURE LIMITS IN CARE FACILITIES**

**Provider Information Notice (PIN) Summary**

PIN 20-14-CCLD provides guidance on sanitizing laundry and a limited waiver of hot water temperature limits in care facilities during the current Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

This PIN provides recommendations and options for sanitizing laundry at facilities with positive COVID-19 cases. The recommended guidance on higher washing temperatures discussed in this PIN is based on standards for health care professionals. This guidance is not mandatory however, it is recommended that licensed community care facilities adopt appropriate standards from the options below.

Recent World Health Organization ([WHO interim guidance](#)) provides:

- For home care of patients with COVID-19 the WHO recommends that the laundry be washed at 140-194°F (60-90°C) to help prevent the spread of infection.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC guidance](#)) for health care facilities states:

- Washing at a water temperature of at least 160°F (71°C) for a minimum of 25 minutes is most effective at killing microbes
- The disinfecting properties of chlorine bleach become active at approximately 135-145°F (57.2-62.7°C).
- However, the same CDC guidance acknowledges that studies have shown a water temperature as low as 71°F-77°F (22°C-25°C) can reduce microbial contamination in controlled circumstances, relying on a greater presence of chlorine- or oxygen-activated bleach to reduce microbial contamination in the wash loads.

- Additionally, heat in the drying cycle or during ironing can substantially improve the ability to kill microbes, regardless of the washing temperature. High dryer temperatures may damage some fabrics.

For additional information on laundry procedures, see the [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Memorandum](#).

### **Washing Laundry at Lower Temperatures**

If the hotter temperatures above are not an option for the facility, alternate methods and products should be used to sanitize during the washing and drying cycle, such as:

- the use of laundry sanitizers
- the use of chlorine bleach or oxygen-activated bleach
- the use of modern cold-water detergents, and
- setting dryer and/or electric iron heat to a higher setting, depending on manufacturers' guidance for different fabrics.

Please see the Environmental Protection Agency's [list of disinfectants for use against the Human Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

## **STATEWIDE WAIVERS OF LICENSING STANDARDS**

Pursuant to the Governor's Proclamation as set forth in [PIN 20-04-CCLD](#) dated March 6, 2020, Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) is announcing statewide waivers for certain licensing requirements, without the need for licensees to make an individual request, and subject to the conditions set forth in this PIN.

### **Waiver for Washing Laundry at Higher Temperatures**

For facilities that do not have authority to use water hotter than 120°F (48.8°C) in a washing machine because it may pose a risk to persons in care, a statewide waiver is hereby given (regarding the regulations shown in Addendum A) to licensees to use hotter water **only for a washing machine** in the facility, provided the licensee observes the following safety precautions:

- The licensee shall ensure that no client has access to the washing machine.
  - This includes establishment of clear policies and strict enforcement to ensure that persons in care do not have access to hotter water temperatures for laundry.
- Posting of a warning sign at the hot water site.
- Training (with documentation) of facility staff in relevant safety and prevention measures.

This waiver is **not available** for taps that do not connect **exclusively to a washing machine**. For certain washing machines that internally heat cooler tap water to higher temperatures, this waiver is not necessary if those washing machines are already approved by the licensing office and in use at the facility.

### **Additional Measures for Minimizing the Spread of Viruses and Bacteria**

Given that many facilities may not have access to a washing machine that can reach the higher temperatures, it is important to note that in separate guidance, the [CDC also recommends](#) taking the following measures to minimize the spread of viruses and bacteria when doing laundry:

- launder items, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), according to the manufacturer's instructions
- use the warmest appropriate water setting
- dry items completely
- wear disposable gloves when handling dirty laundry
- do not shake dirty laundry during handling
- disinfect clothes hampers after each use
- use separate clothes hampers for dirty and clean laundry
- dispose of gloves and wash hands immediately after handling dirty laundry

Whatever the temperature at which fabrics are washed, it is recommended to clean laundry hampers with each use and/or use a plastic disposable liner for the hamper.

All cleaning of PPE must be in accordance with the manufacturer's cleaning instructions. In addition to the guidance provided in [PIN 20-20-ASC](#) regarding the decontamination of N95 respirators which do not contain cellulose-based materials, all providers addressed in this notice should continue to regularly monitor the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) website for the most up-to-date list of [emergency use authorizations \(EUAs\) for N95 decontamination systems](#).

If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Office.

**ADDENDUM A****Water Temperature Regulations**

CCLD regulations currently require that the water temperature in common-use outlets be no higher than 120°F (48.8°C).

The table below shows water temperature range regulations for community care facilities by facility type.

<b>Facility Type</b>	<b>Regulation</b>
Adult Residential Facility	California Code of Regulations, Title 22 Section 80088(e)(1).
Adult Residential Facility for Persons with Special Health-care Needs	CCR, Title 22 Section 80088(e)(1).
Children’s Crisis Residential Program	CCR, Title 22, Section 80088(e)(1).
Community Crisis Home	CCR, Title 22 Section 80088(e)(1).
Community Treatment Facility	CCR, Title 22, Section 80088(e)(1).
Crisis Nursery	CCR, Title 22 Section 86588(e)(1).
Enhanced Behavioral Supports Home	CCR, Title 22 Section 80088(e)(1).
Group Home	CCR, Title 22 Section 80088(e)(1)
Private Alternative Boarding Schools	CCR, Title 22, Section 80088(e)(1).
Private Alternative Outdoor Programs	CCR, Title 22, Section 80088(e)(1).
Residential Care Facility for the Elderly	CCR, Title 22 Section 87303(e)(2).
Residential Care Facility for the Chronically Ill	CCR, Title 22 Section 87888(e)(1).
Small Family Home	CCR, Title 22 Section 80088(e)(1).
Social Rehabilitation Facility	CCR, Title 22 Section 81088(e)(1).
Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program	CCR, Title 22, Section 80088(e)(1).
Temporary Shelter Care Facilities	CCR, Title 22, Section 80088(e)(1).
Youth Homelessness Prevention Center (formerly Runaway Homeless Youth Shelters)	CCR, Title 22, Section 80088(e)(1).

**Note:** Certified Family Homes and Foster Family Homes reference CCR, Title 22 Section 89387(o), simply requires a “safe” water temperature. Resource Family Homes reference Foster Family Agency Interim Licensing Standards, Section 88487.1(a)(4)(A), which also requires water temperatures which are “safe.”

For taps (including water hook-ups) that are not shared with persons in care, when water temperatures reach 125°F or higher, the fixture must be clearly labeled with a warning sign. If a facility has a washing machine that is not accessible to persons in

care and has a tap that is properly labeled, the facility may sanitize laundry at the higher recommended WHO and CDC temperatures while remaining in compliance with regulations.

The table below shows current regulations for the labeling of hot water taps reaching 125°F or higher in community care facilities by facility type.

<b>Facility Type</b>	<b>Regulation</b>
Adult Residential Facility	CCR, Title 22 Section 80088(e)(2).
Adult Residential Facility for Persons with Special Health-care Needs	CCR, Title 22 Section 80088(e)(2).
Community Crisis Home	CCR, Title 22 Section 80088(e)(2).
Community Treatment Facility	CCR, Title 22, Section 80088(e)(1).
Crisis Nursery	CCR, Title 22 Section 86588(e)(2).
Enhanced Behavioral Supports Home	CCR, Title 22 Section 80088(e)(2).
Group Home	CCR, Title 22 Section 80088(e)(2).
Private Alternative Boarding Schools	CCR, Title 22, Section 80088(e)(1).
Private Alternative Outdoor Programs	CCR, Title 22, Section 80088(e)(1).
Residential Care Facility for the Elderly	CCR, Title 22 Section 87303(e)(3).
Residential Care Facility for the Chronically Ill	CCR, Title 22 Section 87888(e)(2).
Small Family Home	CCR, Title 22 Section 80088(e)(2).
Social Rehabilitation Facility	CCR, Title 22 Section 81088(e)(2).
Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program	CCR, Title 22, Section 80088(e)(2).
Temporary Shelter Care Facilities	CCR, Title 22, Section 80088(e)(2).
Youth Homelessness Prevention Center (formerly Runaway Homeless Youth Shelters)	CCR, Title 22, Section 80088(e)(2).