



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
**DEPARTMENT OF  
MENTAL HEALTH**  
hope. recovery. wellbeing.



Los Angeles County  
Department of Children  
and Family Services

April 15, 2020

Dear Valued Providers,

We are faced with an unprecedented public health crisis that presents new challenges, and your work is vital in supporting the stability of Los Angeles County's most vulnerable children and families. April is National Child Abuse Prevention month and serves as a great reminder for us to work together as a community to give all children the opportunity to be a part of a loving, stable, and supportive family.

This year, it is important for us to consider the impact that the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) might have on potential child abuse, and how the impact to families may increase their risk of becoming involved with the child welfare system. On average, the County's Child Protection Hotline receives between 800 and 1,000 daily calls and reports. However, in recent weeks, we have seen about a 50 percent decline. At times, our systems are required to support in moments of instability. However, we want to do everything we can to prevent system involvement, by keeping families connected to services, and in their communities.

We are calling on everyone in Los Angeles County to help us prevent child abuse before it happens. As a provider of supportive services, you play a vital role in helping families leverage their strengths to maintain stability in their homes. We would like to encourage you to consider how maintaining your services, even in these trying times, could help families stay together.

As we prioritize prevention, please think about how to adapt your approach to meet the needs of children and families that require additional supports. Please work with us to think innovatively and continue serving all clients regardless of the COVID-19 challenges.

Both the Department of Children and Family Services and the Department of Mental Health are here to help you navigate changes and challenges related to COVID-19. Should you have any questions please contact Anabel Rodriguez at (213) 739-5466 and Kym Renner at (213) 351-3244. For more information on the DCFS response to COVID 19, please visit the DCFS website at: <https://dcfs.lacounty.gov/coronaviruscovid-19-updates/> or email [COVID19Info@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:COVID19Info@dcfs.lacounty.gov). For more information on the DMH response, please visit: <https://dmh.lacounty.gov/covid-19-information/>.

This is a time for us to shine and show how much we are capable of when we work together. Thank you for all your support and all that you do for the children and families of Los Angeles County.

Sincerely,

Jonathan E. Sherin, M.D., Ph.D., Director  
Department of Mental Health

Bobby Cagle, Director  
Department of Child and Family Services