



RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL DURING COVID-19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What is the department doing to ensure safety when placing children?

A. The Department is utilizing a screening tool that asks questions regarding symptoms and whereabouts to determine the likelihood of infection or potential exposure. Additionally, the Department is seeking access to PPE supplies to provide to families on a prioritization basis.

Q. What supports and supplies are available to assist families with a youth or caregiver who is symptomatic or has tested positive for COVID-19?

A. If a resource family needs support, supplies or services, they may contact the youth's social worker or the Foster Support Line (805-781-1917) to make a request. Arrangements will be made dependent on each family's unique circumstances; this could include but not be limited to tangible support, such as household supplies/products (cleaning supplies, PPE if available), infant/child specific items (diapers, formula, clothing, school supplies) or education and information pertaining to COVID-19 (connection with Public Health nurses, medical staff, behavioral health).

Q. What if a youth placed in a resource home tests positive for COVID-19?

A. If a youth in foster care tests positive for COVID-19, their current caregiver(s) will continue to provide the necessary care. The resource parent should contact the youth's primary care physician for guidance on proper health care treatment. Additionally, the foster youth's social worker should be notified of the positive diagnosis. If the youth is currently receiving behavioral or other health services, the social worker will help the caregiver(s) determine how to continue services during the time they are ill. Social workers have access to public health nurses for additional support and information related to caring for the youth with COVID-19. The Department may provide personal protective equipment (PPE) to resource homes (based on availability of supplies).

Q. What if a caregiver in a resource home tests positive for COVID-19?

A. Similar to other times, the Department recommends that resource parents make alternate care plans for their child(ren) in the event they become ill and need assistance providing care. The caregiver should speak to their primary care physician for guidance on proper health care treatment. Additionally, the resource parent should notify the social worker of any youth placed in the home.

Q. What happens if a youth runs away?

A. Each time a youth joins a household, whether an initial placement, a placement change, or returning from running away, they should answer the questions on the screening tool to determine likelihood of infection. If it is determined they have been exposed to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19, monitor for symptoms and follow the guidance of state or local municipalities related to quarantine.

Q. What does RFA certification look like right now?

A. California is in the process of updating the process in which families are approved to care for children in foster care during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional direction is imminent. The Department will work with each family's unique circumstances to support their successful completion of the requirements.

Q. Will there be monetary compensation for families that are willing to take a COVID positive youth?

A. Depending on each youth's unique circumstances, there may be additional funding available for resource families who are able to care for children with special medical needs

Q. Are there any additional mental health resources available for youth and their caregivers who may be experiencing increased trauma due to COVID-19 concerns?

A. Additional information and resources are available through the County's website: www.EmergencySLO.org. If a family is in need of additional training or resources, they should contact the youth's social worker or the Foster Support Line (805-781-1917) for additional support. The Department may offer resources, online trauma trainings and the ability to refer to community partners, if necessary, to provide needed support.

Q. Does Medi-Cal cover testing of a child for COVID-19? Can a resource parent get a child tested?

A. It is important that resource parents identify the Primary Care Physician (PCP) for foster children placed in their care. If a child is ill, the resource parent should call the office of the PCP with any questions; they will be guided whether to monitor the child from home, bring the child to the office, or visit the testing site. If a medical professional determines that it is medically necessary to have a foster child tested, Medi-Cal will cover the cost for the test. In the event of a true emergency, call 911 or bring the child to the nearest emergency room, advising medical personnel the child is having COVID-19 symptoms or has had a positive diagnosis.

Q. What assistance can DSS provide if child care is an issue with the shutdown of schools?

A. Multiple programs are available to support resource families in the event childcare is needed; including the Bridge Child Care Program and Temporary Emergency Childcare (for essential service workers). Additionally, some resource families are willing to arrange childcare exchanges.

Q. Can resource parents refuse entry of a social worker into their home if they believe the social worker is sick or showing symptoms of being sick?

A. Social workers should be calling ahead to ensure that everyone is healthy before they attempt to do a home visit. All staff have been instructed to stay home and not work if they are ill. However, if a social worker arrives at your home and appears to be showing symptoms of being sick, such as coughing, sneezing or having a fever, you may ask the social worker to reschedule the visit or conduct the visit by telephone.