

**MEMORADUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY
SERVICES
AND
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by and between County of Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services (DHS), is made and executed this 15th day of April 2020.

WHEREAS, DCFS and DHS have entered into this MOU to describe programs where DCFS and DHS share responsibilities or where the effectiveness of their discrete responsibilities are dependent on the effectiveness of the other department's program and will be improved by the continued and enhanced collaboration by both departments; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the parties hereto to execute this MOU, which shall include Appendix A.1, Communicable Infections Disease Services.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. This MOU shall be effective upon execution.
2. Appendix A.1 Communicable Infections Disease Services shall be attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.
3. Section, TERM AND TERMINATION shall be from day of execution and shall continue through September 15, 2020.

This MOU shall be renewed by mutual agreement, and may only be modified, amended or terminated by the written, mutual consent of both parties. All amendments or modifications shall be documented in writing.

Signatures:

The undersigned hereby represent and acknowledge this MOU to be executed.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES



Bobby D. Cagle
Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES



Christina R. Ghaly, M.D.
Director

Appendix A.1

Appendix A.1 Communicable Infectious Disease Services: COVID-19

The Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) agree to perform necessary and/or legally mandated communicable disease quarantine and medical management services in accordance with the policies and procedures incorporated in this MOU, including but not limited to the following:

A. Admission sites

To the extent possible, DHS will provide inpatient hospital beds to support the care of DCFS-involved youth in an isolated setting due to COVID-19 related symptoms or exposure, as follows:

1. LAC+USC Medical Center (two beds)
2. Olive View-UCLA Medical Center (one bed)
3. Harbor-UCLA Medical Center (one bed)

B. Admission criteria

Children/youth who are newly detained by child welfare, or require a foster care replacement, or have returned from a runaway episode, and:

1. Exhibit symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. Symptoms may also include chills, body aches, sore throat, headache, diarrhea, nausea/vomiting and runny nose, and require a medical test to rule out COVID-19; or
2. Who have been exposed or tested positive for COVID-19, in accordance with the most up-to-date Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Checklist for Healthcare Providers and require isolation.

C. Pre-Admission

1. If a child/youth is identified as exhibiting COVID-19- like symptoms by a parent, caregiver, or Children Services Worker, he/she will be transported to one of the three Admission Sites listed in Section A of this MOU to be evaluated for necessary treatment and/or isolation.
2. Transportation of the child/youth to an Admission Site may be provided by the child/youth's parent, caregiver, or designated DCFS staff, taking all necessary precautions to prevent contamination.
3. DCFS staff will follow the guidelines pursuant to:

a) *Information on COVID-19 for DCFS Social Workers*

D. Process

1. DHS attending physician to work with DCFS staff to determine eligibility for admission based on criteria outlined above.
2. Patient to be admitted DHS inpatient pediatric ward for respiratory monitoring.
3. Primary management by pediatric medical team.
4. Admission as per required inpatient protocols.
5. Admission History and Physical, daily progress note, nursing assessments, per inpatient requirements.
6. Waive Utilization Management Admission review and note "DCFS placement" as explanation for admission.
7. Hospital Admission Unit will be responsible for admission documentation whereby the parent, caregiver, or DCFS staff may sign patient in, consistent with protocols that are already in place for children ages 0-12 and 13+ and above, which can vary.

E. Discharge

1. DHS will keep DCFS notified of the patient's status daily by notifying the designated DCFS Accelerated Placement Team (APT) staff, which will include updates on test results and any required preparation for discharge planning.
2. Discharge readiness will be determined by the DHS inpatient team in accordance with the current guidelines published by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health (DPH).
3. DCFS agrees to disposition the patient:
 - a) Within 24 hours of negative test result (7 days per week), or
 - b) Within 24 hours of 'medical clearance' for COVID-19+ or other medical condition relevant to the admission (7 days per week). "Medical Clearance" will be determined using current County Guidelines.
4. A Discharge Summary prepared by the DHS inpatient team will be required for placement purposes, including a Temporary Shelter Care Facility (TSCF), a Short-Term Residential Treatment Program facility (STRTP), or any other resource parent provider. The Discharge Summary shall include any instruction for continued care and self-isolation, including but not limited to the END DATE of the completed isolation period.
5. DCFS will notify the child/youth's caregiver of the discharge instructions, including providing the following guidelines:
 - a) *Information on COVID-19 for Foster Parents and Guardians*

6. DCFS will make arrangements to transport the child/youth with designated "transportation" staff," pursuant to:

- a) *Information on COVID-19 for DCFS Social Workers*

7. A child/youth shall be provided any medications prescribed for treatment of COVID-19, such as an asthma inhaler or other prescribed medications for refills upon being discharged from the hospital.
8. The Discharge Summary packet should be consistent with that currently used by DHS.
9. Upon placement, DCFS will provide the child/youth's caretaker with the DHS Hub COVID "Warmline" telephone number (323) 409-3090, in the event any future consultation is needed. (Refer to the Information on COVID-19 for Foster Parents and Guardians, attached.)

F. DCFS supervision

1. The overall general medical care of the child/youth will be the responsibility of DHS; however, DCFS will provide support, monitor and caretaking tasks to the child/youth during their stay by allocating assistance based on a ratio of 1:2 patients.
2. The supervision will be provided by one of the following:
 - a) Contracted Certified Nursing Attendants (CNAs)
 - b) Disaster Services Worker
 - c) DCFS identified and trained staff
3. Duties to be performed by this staff will include but not be limited to:
 - a) Liaison between DCFS and DHS for assistance with any questions regarding the child/youth's case/referral, DCFS process, procedures, intake and departure of the child/youth.
 - b) Maintain regular contact with the DCFS Accelerated Placement Team (APT) to ascertain placement options once the child/youth is released.
 - c) Confirm all medications, including psychotropic medications are physically present and/or ordered on behalf of youth.
 - d) If child/youth presents with challenging and difficult behaviors, DCFS staff will work with DHS to meet their needs, including contacting the Psychiatric Mobile Response Team for an evaluation.
 - e) Assist and if possible, prevent a child/youth attempts to AWOL from the hospital setting, and immediately contact and notify the case-carrying worker of such incident so that a Serious Incident Report (SIR) can be filed.

- f) If a child/youth departs from the DHS hospital setting, notify the regional staff when belongings/property/medication are left behind at DHS and coordinate items to be transferred.

G. Financial Reimbursement for Services Rendered

1. DCFS agrees to reimburse DHS using the facility-specific Medi-Cal Interim Inpatient Hospital Per Diem Rates for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 as approved by the California Department of Health Care Services for any admissions pursuant to the terms of this MOU. The rates became effective on July 1, 2019 and are updated on an annual basis by the California Department of Health Services.
2. For any billing questions or potential disputes, DCFS will communicate with DHS in writing so that the parties can resolve these matters.

Attachments:

- A. Information on COVID-19 for DCFS Social Workers*
- B. Information on COVID-19 for Foster Parents and Guardians*
- C. New Interim Inpatient Hospital Per Diem Rate and Effective Date of New Rate July 2019*