



1615 Capitol Ave., Suite 73.771
P.O. Box 997377, MS 7003
Sacramento, CA 95899-7377

PHONE: 916.440.7594
FAX: 916.440.7595
<http://www.cclho.org>

Jake Hanson, MPH
Executive Administrator
Jake.Hanson@cdph.ca.gov

Officers

Karen Relucio, MD
President
Napa County

Nancy Williams, MD, MPH
Treasurer
El Dorado County

Gail Newel, MD, MPH
Secretary
Santa Cruz County

Julie Vaishampayan, MD, MPH
Legislative Coordinator
Stanislaus County

Matthew Willis, MD, MPH
Regulations Coordinator
Marin County

Anissa Davis, MD, MPH
City of Long Beach

Eric Sergienko, MD, MPH
Mariposa County

Directors-at-Large

Ying Goh, MD, MSHS
City of Pasadena

Edward Moreno, MD, MPH
Monterey County

Karen Ramstrom, DO, MSPH
Shasta County

July 20, 2020

Re: Posting Essential Services Inquiries on CDPH website

Dear Dr. Angell:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) would like to thank the California Department of Public Health for establishing a dedicated email address, EssentialServicesInquiries@cdph.ca.gov, for local health departments to use to ask questions and receive answers about gray areas associated with the Stay-at-Home order, Reopening Roadmap, and County Data Monitoring program-related rollbacks. The responses received from the mailbox have been extremely helpful for local health department leaders in interpreting State orders and guidance. However, the process could be significantly improved if the answers to local health department questions were posted publicly on a CDPH frequently asked questions (FAQ) page. Public posting of responses would serve several purposes:

- By making the answers available to all local health departments, the FAQ page would reduce the number of inquiries CDPH receives with the same or similar questions;
- If an answer was updated or changed as circumstances evolved, the change could be communicated to all local health departments at once;
- The responses could be viewed by members of the public, cutting down on the number of inquiries local health departments receive from residents;
- Interpretation of State orders and guidance would be more consistent statewide if all local health departments had access to same answers regarding interpretation;

Several significant interpretations of the Stay-at-Home order have been provided only through private communications to individual health jurisdictions through the Essential Services Inquiries mailbox. This includes the allowance of wedding ceremonies but not wedding receptions, and the allowance and later disallowance of distanced athletic drills and conditioning. Posting these responses on a publicly available FAQ page would save countless hours of confusion and frustration by local health officers and local public health officials and the need for CDPH staff to respond to the same questions from multiple jurisdictions. The saved time could be redirected toward ensuring that the answers have enough detail, are consistent with one another, and are very clear.

Clear and consistent communication between CDPH and local health departments, as well as with the public, is important, and never more so than during a pandemic. Thank you for considering this request to improve communication by increasing transparency and consistency.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please contact me by email at karen.relucio@countyofnapa.org or by phone at (707) 253-4566.

Sincerely,

Karen Relucio, MD
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers