



Public Comment #21

EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

BOSREVD 1/4/2021

Re: VHR's during Covid & Statewide stay at home order

1 message

Nicholas Hendricks <nicholashendricks@yahoo.com>

Mon, Jan 4, 2021 at 7:49 AM

To: The BOSFIVE <bosfive@edcgov.us>

Cc: "edc.cob@edcgov.us" <edc.cob@edcgov.us>, "bosone@edcgov.us" <bosone@edcgov.us>, "bostwo@edcgov.us" <bostwo@edcgov.us>, "bosthree@edcgov.us" <bosthree@edcgov.us>, "bosfour@edcgov.us" <bosfour@edcgov.us>

Hey Sue/Rest of the board,

I didn't realize the county is unable to enforce the covid-19 stay at home measures. Does this mean all hotels, restaurants, gyms, etc are not being fined for any violations & the county is just asking businesses to comply?

I noticed the county has a form to report covid-19 violations (<http://bit.ly/3rVFAdU>). What is the form meant to be used for if El Dorado County isn't enforcing covid-19 restrictions?

Thanks for clarifying,
Nick

On Monday, December 28, 2020, 02:31:25 PM PST, The BOSFIVE <bosfive@edcgov.us> wrote:

Hi Nick,

Thank you for your email.

Although the Governor's orders clearly states that travel for any reason other than essential work is prohibited, the County has no ability to enforce the order. That said, my office reached out to VRBO and other similar companies in an effort to stop them from renting and/or refusing refunds due to COVID restrictions. Their response has been that they will inform their owners of the rules and ask for compliance of state law.

Unfortunately, many people have chosen to ignore the order and, as you indicated, have flocked to Tahoe. It is disturbing to see that owners continue to defy the Governor's orders. As complaints come in, the County has and continues to reach out to owners and renters to educate them on the orders and our request that they not vacation in Tahoe until such time as the order is lifted. Civil fines to businesses have been met by lawsuits and threats of anarchy. I only wish that people would have a better understanding of their personal responsibility during this trying time and do what is right.

Thank you again,
Sue

On Mon, Dec 28, 2020 at 12:06 PM Nicholas Hendricks <nicholashendricks@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi Sue,

As you know, we are under a stay at home order due to Covid.
However, over 20+ VHRs in my neighborhood were occupied this past weekend.

What is being done at the county level about VHRs in the Tahoe Basin to protect us?

Thanks,
Nick Hendricks
2306 Sierra House Trail,
South Lake Tahoe, CA
310-699-0181

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Sue Novasel, County Supervisor
District V, Lake Tahoe to Pollock Pines
County of El Dorado

530.621.6577

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EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Non agenda item public comment for 01/05/2021 BOS meeting

1 message

Karen Mulvany <kmulvany@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 4, 2021 at 2:42 PM

To: edc.cob@edcgov.us



2021 0105 BOS meeting public comment non agenda item.pdf

1024K

To: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
From: Karen Mulvany, El Dorado County representative and Chair of Sacramento Regional Advisory Committee, State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Re: 2021 0105 BOS meeting Public Comment: Update on COVID-19 vaccine access for in home support providers for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities
Date: 1/4/2021

IHSS providers serve some of the most medically vulnerable residents of El Dorado County, including people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Alta California Regional Center recently sent a letter to Nancy Williams, head of the county's Public Health Department, which is attached. It notes that people with IDD have been found to be 2- 3 x more likely to die from COVID-19 as compared to cohorts from the general population. The IDD population is not currently prioritized for access to the vaccine at the state level, unless those individuals reside in an institutional setting.

Many of the county's residents with IDD receive services in their own home, including IHSS as well as regional center funded services such as in-home respite. Because direct support staff are a vector for virus transmission, it is increasingly critical to ensure that such staff are able to obtain the vaccine in order to protect this very vulnerable population.

As of Friday 12/31/2020, the COVID-19 Vaccine web page at <https://www.edcgov.us/Government/hhsa/Pages/EDCCOVID-19-vaccine.aspx> stated that individuals described in Tier 1 and Tier 2 of Phase 1a, in theory, are now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. Tier 2 includes "in home supportive services." Per the SCDD Executive Director, Aaron Caruthers, who is a member of the state Community Vaccine Advisory Committee, this group should include any individual who provides direct support to a person with IDD, whether paid or unpaid.

Over the past week, I have placed a number of calls to county Public Health, 211 and the county Public Authority (which is legally responsible for the IHSS program), but none of these sources were able to provide any information on how in home support providers can obtain a vaccine. I was advised by the 211 source to tell the IHSS employer agency (which in fact, is the county Public Authority) that it needs to register on behalf of its employees in order to enable its employees to obtain access to the vaccine. That registration site is at <https://forms.gle/pxnsEaHZPrY97jnn9> . Today when I called the Public Authority I was told that staff there were "waiting to hear" about the vaccine program.

Per El Dorado County Ordinance Code, Chapter 8.78 (see https://library.municode.com/ca/el_dorado_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTAGECOOR_TIT8PUHESA_CH8.78COMESUSEPUAU) , the county's In Home Supportive Services program is administered by the county Public Authority. In turn, the governing body of the Authority is the members of the County Board of Supervisors; see section 8.78.030 (B) . Per section 8.78.060(D)(1) the Public Authority is deemed to be the employer of IHSS personnel, or providers.

Whatever the members of the county BOS can do to enable COVID-19 vaccine access for in home supportive services providers, and people with IDD themselves, would be most appreciated.



2241 Harvard Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95815
916-978-6400

December 7, 2020

Dr. Nancy Williams
El Dorado County Public Health
sent via email

Re: Vaccination Prioritization for People with Developmental Disabilities

Dear Dr. Williams,

Alta California Regional Center (ACRC) is a private, non-profit agency funded and overseen by the California State Department of Developmental Services (DDS). The regional center system was born from legislation to support those with developmental disabilities to be provided services and supports within their communities. There are 21 Regional Centers throughout California. ACRC serves over 26,000 clients, covering a 10-county catchment area, with one county under your jurisdiction.

Individuals with developmental disabilities experience health inequities and are at greater risk for poorer outcomes from COVID-19. By definition, they are considered hi-risk. We have observed a heightened risk of death for our client population as well.

Area (date #'s last updated)	# of Cases	# of Deaths	%
State of California (12/7/20)	1,366,435	20,028	1.46%
All 21 Regional Centers in California (11/28/20)	4148	197	4.5%
ACRC (12/7/20)	262	16	6.1%

In El Dorado County, ACRC supports 1425 children and adults. The majority of these individuals live in family homes, but ACRC also has 7 care homes in the county. These congregate settings pose a high risk for further spread of COVID-19.

In light of these concerns, ACRC advocates for the inclusion of those with developmental disabilities to be prioritized in the early phases of the vaccination implementation. Should you have any questions about this request, please reach out to me directly at chouston@altaregional.org.

Additionally, I have enclosed a position letter from the Association of Regional Center Agencies regarding vaccines for Californians with developmental disabilities.

Regards,

Camelia Houston, MS
Director of Intake and Clinical Services

Enclosure: ARCA COVID-19 Vaccine Position Letter



980 9th Street, Suite 1450, Sacramento, California 95814 • 916.446.7961 • www.arcanet.org

November 29, 2020

Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, Chair, Community Vaccine Advisory Committee

Dr. Oliver Brooks, Co-Chair, COVID-19 Vaccine Drafting Guidelines Workgroup

Dr. Robert Schechter, Co-Chair, COVID-19 Vaccine Drafting Guidelines Workgroup

RE: COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization And Californians With Developmental Disabilities

Honorable Drs. Burke Harris, Brooks, and Schechter:

The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) represents the network of 21 community-based non-profit regional centers that coordinate services for, and advocate on behalf of, well over 350,000 Californians with developmental disabilities.

We urge the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities, as well as direct support professionals (DSPs) and families in the priority list of those who will first access a COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID-19 has profoundly impacted life for Californians. People with developmental disabilities are particularly vulnerable to its impacts. Additionally, the DSPs who make integrated community life possible are **one of the most important** elements of ensuring daily life can continue. Similarly, for the many people with developmental disabilities who live at home, particularly those with aging caregivers, their parents are often in high-risk groups.

ARCA urges the Department of Public Health to prioritize people with developmental disabilities in accessing COVID-19 vaccines. We are fortunate to have had a robust, collaborative response by regional centers, service providers, and families in adapting to this temporary "new normal." Because of this diligence, those served by regional centers are reporting lower morbidity and mortality rates than congregate settings that support many other vulnerable populations.

As of November 13, 2020, the California Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDS) reported¹ 179 deaths of the 3,600 COVID-19 confirmed positive cases, which compares favorably to the statistics from Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) and assisted living facilities. Those facilities have recently reported 6,364 deaths amongst the 67,551 confirmed positive COVID-19 cases,² which makes up 34% of the state total. In short, California's system of services and supports for people with developmental disabilities that keeps them out of institutional settings keeps them safer and healthier.

¹ https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/DDS_COVID-19_demographics-andresidence_10302020.pdf

² <https://www.latimes.com/projects/california-coronavirus-cases-tracking-outbreak/nursing-homes/>

However, this success is not a reason to overlook our community. The following findings highlight that COVID-19 patients with developmental disabilities are far more likely than developmentally typical individuals to die from it:

- A recent journal article noted that “people with IDD had higher prevalence of specific comorbidities associated with poorer COVID-19 outcomes.”³
- The death rate among all patients with COVID-19 is 0.6%, but for people with developmental disorders the percentage is 1.22%, and for those with intellectual disabilities the reported percentage is 3.37%.⁴
- Researchers concluded that for every 100,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases in people with developmental disabilities there would be an estimated 4,500 deaths.⁵ Comparatively, the findings suggest approximately 2,700 out of 100,000 people without developmental disabilities within the same age range would expire from complications associated with COVID-19.

Because of this, those with developmental disabilities and those who support them should be among those prioritized for vaccination. This priority should also be extended to two other groups, DSPs and family members who live with and support people with developmental disabilities. First, DSPs provide constant support, including communication, mobility, personal hygiene, and other elements of self-care. Their close and extended proximity to those they serve means they are at exceptional risk of being infected by, or transmitting, COVID-19. We cannot overstate the need to ensure DSPs can be an ongoing part of the lives of those they support.

Second are the family members people with developmental disabilities live with. Like DSPs, families provide critical daily support to people served by the regional centers. As of September 2020, nearly 80% of people with developmental disabilities lived in the home of a parent/guardian⁶. For these individuals, family members are critical support workers. Their health and safety must also be prioritized. Additionally, by virtue of age, many parents of adults with developmental disabilities are often in one or more high-risk groups. Any illness – let alone mortality – would be both tragic and unspeakably disruptive. They, too, must be early candidates for any vaccine.

We thank you for considering the health and safety of people with developmental disabilities, the committed professionals who serve them, and the families that are integral parts of their lives. If you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact Daniel Savino in our office at dsavino@arcanet.org or (916) 446-7961.

Sincerely,

/s/Amy Westling

Executive Director

Cc: Nancy Bargmann, Director, Department of Developmental Services

Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary, Health and Human Services Agency

³ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1936657420300674?via%3Dihub>

⁴

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/media2.fairhealth.org/whitepaper/asset/Risk%20Factors%20for%20COVID19%20Mortality%20among%20Privately%20Insured%20Patients%20-%20A%20Claims%20Data%20Analysis%20-%20A%20FAIR%20Health%20White%20Paper.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.upstate.edu/hloa/2020/060520-turk-landes-interview.php>

⁶ <https://www.dds.ca.gov/transparency/facts-stats/quarterly-client-characteristics-reports/>