



Top Questions SCDD Received from Parents and Family Advocates

What will happen with services provided through my child's IEP and how will they be addressed while school is closed?

- This is a unique situation and many questions have yet to be answered about how educational supports will be provided during this time of school closures.
- Whether or not your child continues to receive everything they need in their Individual Education Plan (IEP) when their school is closed depends on many factors. Remember that children with disabilities should have the same access to education as those without disabilities. If children who do not have IEPs have access to education through on-line learning or other means, then children with IEPs should also have access to education.
- There are several resources that go into more detail about special education in this time of school closures. These include:
 - a. www.cde.ca.gov go to the special education division.
 - b. <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/files/ga-covid-19-03-12-2020.pdf>.



Will additional services be provided during the Summer?

- You may be able to request that hours missed during school closures are extended into the Summer or Fall. This is known as “compensatory education.” This is a decision that is made by the IEP team.

Can my regional center provide Gap Services while school is closed due to the virus?

- Contact your regional center service coordinator to discuss your child’s and family’s changing needs. Request the services needed to fill the gap.
- The California Department of Education has a web page for information related to COVID-19:
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/coronavirus.asp>.

What additional services could my regional center provide during the Coronavirus situation?

- Regional centers are obligated to be flexible and creative in meeting the unique needs of families as they evolve over time. Your service coordinator should work with you to identify what your child and family needs and identify appropriate services to meet those needs.
- To learn about typical services provided by regional centers, go to this link: <http://tinyurl.com/r874hm9>



Can I request additional IHSS hours?

- In some cases, you might be able to get more In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) hours. A person receiving personal and domestic hours will receive anywhere from 7 to 70 hours a month.
- You can request an increase in those hours due to changing circumstances with personal care needs.
- If your family member qualifies for protective supervision, IHSS can provide up to a maximum of 283 hours per month of this service.
- To qualify for Protective Supervision, the person must be assessed specifically for this service. The person needs to show moderate to severe deficits in orientation, memory and judgment in order to receive Protective Supervision. The requirements are very specific. In addition, the person's doctor needs to fill out Form SOC 821 <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/entres/forms/English/SOC821.PDF>, SOC 825 (24-hour coverage plan), SOC 873 (HC Certification Form), and WT Physician's Statement.
- If you think that your family member may be eligible for Protective Supervision, request a re-assessment and specify that you want to apply for Protective Supervision.



What generic resources are available to assist me during this time?

- With the rapid changes to services available in our communities due to COVID-19, we cannot guarantee that all resources will be available.
- Many school districts are providing one or two free meals a day for children who qualify. Check with your local school to see where these will be provided.
- Other generic services may include: In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS); Supplemental Security Income (SSI); Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC); family resource centers; transportation; local libraries; local medical providers, clinics, and hospital; local food pantries; churches; and other non-profit agencies and resource centers. Call before visiting a location, many are temporarily closed or working remotely.
- If your town has a 2-1-1 Information Resource Service, you may call them. Otherwise, contact your regional center service coordinator for assistance and referrals to other needed resources in your community.

If I get the Coronavirus and need to be quarantined or hospitalized, who will take care of my child who is a regional center consumer?

- A parent becoming sick and unable to care for their child is something that can occur at any given time. In this situation, the family may turn



to natural supports, such as family and friends to ask for help and plan for their safety and care.

- The regional center must give a very high priority to developing and expanding services that allow a minor child to remain in their home.
- When the regional center first becomes aware that a family may consider an out-of-home placement, or is in need of additional specialized services to assist in caring for the child in the home, the regional center and family meet to discuss the situation and the family's current needs, solicit from the family what supports would be necessary to maintain the child in the home, and utilize creative and innovative ways of meeting the family's need and providing adequate supports to keep the family together, if possible.
- If the child cannot remain in the home, ask for an Independent Program Plan (IPP) meeting and explore temporary or permanent appropriate alternative living arrangements and supports. This can include out-of-home respite, placement in a group home, or other options. Here is more information about your rights under the Lanterman Act:

<http://tinyurl.com/w6sco7h>

What if I lose my private health insurance because I have been laid off during the Coronavirus situation?

- If you have recently lost your employer-sponsored health coverage, you can enroll into a health plan through Covered California. Those



who lose their employer-sponsored coverage have 60 days before and 60 days after the date of their coverage loss to come to Covered California and select a new health insurance plan. Once you've signed up with Covered California, your coverage can begin on the first day of the following month. Here is more information about Covered California: <http://tinyurl.com/uchquya>

- If you are a self-advocate and have lost your job and health insurance refer to Section 1619(b) of the Social Security Act. This allows Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries who have earnings too high for an SSI cash payment to receive Medicaid (Medi-Cal) if they have been eligible for an SSI cash payment for at least 1 month and if they still meet the disability requirement and all other non-disability SSI requirements. They would continue to be eligible for Medi-Cal/Medicaid even if they lose their job.
- A child who is a client of the regional center, has personal care and/or behavioral deficits, and receives at least one regional center service may be eligible for Medicaid Waiver Institutional Deeming (ID). This is a process to obtain full scope unrestricted Medi-Cal without a share of cost for developmentally disabled children under age 18. Through Institutional Deeming, the family's income and resources are not taken into consideration. Consult with your service coordinator.



The COVID-19 situation is changing daily, and many answers are not known at this time. Please refer to official local, county, state, and federal websites for up-to-the-minute information.

- **For community questions, call your local 2-1-1.**
- **For regional center questions, contact your service coordinator.**
- **If you have problems with a regional center, contact the Department of Developmental Services at (916) 651-6309 or Ddsc19@dds.ca.gov.**
- **Or contact the State Council on Developmental Disabilities at (833) 818-9886 or council@scdd.ca.gov.**