



March 13, 2020

Dear Behavior and Therapy Network Providers,

In these uncertain times, I wanted to reach out to you personally about what we are doing at Easterseals in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19). As information surrounding COVID-19 continues to evolve, we are closely monitoring state and local guidelines to focus on the safety of both our associates and participants all while trying to continue to provide a high level of service.

Screening of Associates, Service Recipients and Families

At this time, we are prohibiting services to any participant or their household member who answers “yes” to any of these questions and ask that they consult with their physician:

- Within the past 14 days has returned from a Centers for Disease Control Level 3 Country (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>);
- Is sick or is exhibiting cold or flu-like symptoms (i.e., fever, runny nose, coughing, etc.);
or
- Has concerns that they have been in direct contact with someone who is suspected of having COVID-19.

In addition, any staff who answers “yes” to any of the above questions will also be asked to stay home and consult with their physician.

Policy Exceptions

We understand that these times can be anxiety producing, we have informed families that cancelled sessions will not count against attendance policies during this period. In turn, we ask that families provide us with as much notice as possible so that our associates can support other families.

Telehealth Option

Further, we understand that during this time, extra support for families may be needed. We are creating options for support through our telehealth platform, when we are not able to provide in-person support. More information around this option, including minimum requirements, will be forthcoming once we have final approval from Kaiser Permanente. We are seeking approval for ABA, Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapy services at this time.

We are moving swiftly to gather information, plan, and respond to the quickly changing environment. We will work hard to stay on top of things, answer your questions and to communicate to our network of providers.



Financial Implications

We understand that these times could be financially difficult for many organizations and could directly impact our support staff. We are in communication with Kaiser Permanente about this issue and will relay any news as it becomes available. Attached, please find information that may be useful regarding the declaration of a National Disaster and potential resources.

Also, the California Department of Public Health has state guidance on how to prepare and protect community members from COVID-19 at the following link:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Guidance.aspx>.

Thank you for your understanding and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Paula Pompa-Craven, Psy.D.
Chief Clinical Officer
Easterseals Autism Services