# COVID-19 Update March 17, 2020

During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) health emergency, North Los Angeles County Regional Center (NLACRC) is working in close collaboration with the <u>Department of Developmental Services</u> (DDS) to ensure the system's response to the Coronavirus is informed by state leadership. NLACRC is also consulting the daily advisories provided by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health as well as the Centers for Disease Control in making decisions regarding our daily operations.

## **Business Operations**

We are dedicated to supporting consumers and families during this challenging time. Currently, the Center's three offices will remain open for business. In an effort to protect the health of staff and limit potential exposure to the coronavirus, we are making every effort to implement social distancing. We have approved alternative work schedules to allow as many employees as feasible, to work remotely.

### **Social Distancing**

The health and safety of consumers and families is a priority and as such, anyone who is sick should stay home. Additionally, it is important that we all practice increased handwashing and covering of mouths when coughing or sneezing.

While social distancing is important during this health emergency, you may find the need to come to one of the Center's offices. Please be assured that the Center has increased the cleaning of high-traffic, high-touch areas such as the reception area and our meeting rooms.

#### **Large Meetings**

At this time, the Center is canceling or postponing large public meetings. Notice of cancellations will be provided through email blasts and posting on the Center's website, Facebook, and other social media accounts.

#### **Additional Information**

Please see our website at <a href="www.nlacrc.org">www.nlacrc.org</a> for information regarding COVID-19, including updates regarding the impact of COVID-19 on our business operations. We will also share updates on our Facebook and Twitter pages and via email. If you are not signed up to receive NLACRC's "News You Can Use," <a href="click here">click here</a> to join our email list.

#### **Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Directives**

DDS has authorized regional centers to offer remote electronic IPP and IFSP using FaceTime, Skype, Zoom, video, or telephone conference in lieu of in-person meetings. Additionally, early intervention services may be provided using remote electronic means. Regional centers have also been given authority to grant rate adjustments based on the health and safety needs of consumers. And lastly, the regional center has been directed to ensure that individuals with compromised immune systems, those at higher risk of respiratory illness, and those living in certain specialized residential settings temporarily stop participation in day services and remain home.

We anticipate receiving future directives from DDS and will communicate that information on our website, our "News You Can Use" and social media. Click here to read the DDS directives.

Please be assured that NLACRC is collaborating with service providers to meet the needs of our community, and together, we will navigate through this challenging and unprecedented time.