



North Los Angeles County Regional Center

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February 4, 2021

Dear Family Member Caregivers,

In order to support family member caregivers who are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccination as outlined in the Department letter dated January 13, 2021 (click [here](#)), which identifies family members as health care workers if they provide care to a consumer in their household with either Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy or Specialized Healthcare Needs including dependence upon ventilators, oxygen and other technology, NLACRC has updated our vaccination eligibility letter in efforts for family member caregivers to have successful appointments. The letter has been changed to identify one specific consumer home care provider per letter. Specifically, Service Coordinators will indicate the name, birthdate, and relationship of the care provider to the consumer. If there is more than one care provider (such as for two parents), a separate letter will be needed for each family care provider.

NLACRC encourages family member caregivers who have requested letters previously and have not yet had a successful appointment or have been turned away from a vaccination site to request an updated letter. Please note that LADPH has indicated they will not accept generic letters. The letter must specifically identify the family care provider, the consumer and the consumer's underlying increased risk medical condition. The new NLACRC letter should meet LADPH's updated requirements; however, NLACRC cannot guarantee LADPH will accept the letter or provide the vaccine. LADPH is the ultimate decision maker regarding vaccine distribution and know that continued advocacy will occur to ensure family member caregivers are recognized under the eligibility established.

Please know we are hopeful that the challenges that some family members have experienced will be addressed by this revised letter and NLACRC will continue to monitor the situation at a statewide and local level. If you do have any further challenges with this updated letter being accepted at vaccination sites, please contact your Service Coordinator or Officer of the Day.