

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **County of Orange Social Services Agency Encourages Clients to Take Precautions Amid COVID-19 Concerns**

**Orange County, Calif.** (March 16, 2020) – In the wake of recent California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidance related to professional, social and community gatherings, the County of Orange Social Services Agency (SSA) recommends clients follow precautionary measures to help slow and prevent the potential spread of illness.

CDPH guidance recommends postponement or cancellation of gatherings with 250 or more people or smaller gatherings held in venues that do not allow for social distancing of six feet per person.

In line with this guidance and when possible, SSA encourages clients to consider alternative channels to enroll for Medi-Cal, CalFresh and CalWORKs benefits and/or to address questions related to current cases in place of in-person office visits. There are multiple ways to connect:

- **Click-** [www.MyBenefitsCalWIN.org](http://www.MyBenefitsCalWIN.org)
- **Call-** (800) 281-9799 to apply by phone

Existing Orange County client households may also direct questions to their assigned case worker. Those recipients without an assigned caseworker may contact SSA toll-free at (800) 281-9799.

“The health and well-being of our clients and our SSA staff is of paramount importance and we have an obligation to help ensure their safety,” said SSA Director Debra Baetz. She continued, “Encouraging clients to employ social distancing strategies – and in this case, to use alternate



channels in lieu of visiting our SSA regional office locations when possible – can help protect them and the community as a whole.”

To continue to prevent the spread of the virus, please follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s guidelines:

- Wash hands with water and soap for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

To stay up to date with information concerning the COVID-19 situation in Orange County, please visit [www.ochealthinfo.com/novelcoronavirus](http://www.ochealthinfo.com/novelcoronavirus).

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