

Public Health and Equity Policy Actions for COVID-19 Rapid Response

The Public Health Alliance of Southern California (Alliance) is a coalition of local health departments in Southern California. Collectively our members have statutory responsibility for the health of nearly 50% of California's population. For more information about the Alliance, please visit <http://ThePublicHealthAlliance.org/>

ELEVATING PUBLIC HEALTH & EQUITY IN THE COVID-19 RESPONSE

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed both critical gaps in our public health infrastructure for emergency response, as well as the stark underlying health inequities that place low-income communities and communities of color at higher risk. The Alliance has developed this Rapid Response Policy Document to outline key priority areas where amplifying a regional voice around COVID-19 policy and investment priorities is essential. These priorities represent issues that are time-sensitive and require a rapid response in the current immediate phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Alliance will be developing a companion document focusing more on the long-term phases of the response and recovery in the near future.



THE ALLIANCE SUPPORTS RAPID RESPONSE POLICY ACTIONS, INCLUDING ENHANCED FUNDING SUPPORT, IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:



PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

- Free diagnostic testing for all
- Increased lab testing
- Increased contact tracing and disease investigation
- Monitoring and compliance of safety measures in congregate living facilities
- Safe reopening and lifting of stay-at-home orders, in compliance with the Governor's framework and local health department plans
- Local health department staffing
- Back funding for costs already incurred
- Equitable distribution of new resources based on need



HEALTH & SAFETY

- Expanded paid sick, family and medical leave
- Expanded mental health support and resources
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for essential workers in frontline sectors and industries
- Expanded janitorial support for essential businesses and other public spaces frequented by the public and essential workers
- Enhanced hygiene for public transportation and other public spaces frequented by essential workers
- Public health deployment in jails and/or detention centers for support of COVID-19-related protocols, isolation and release measures
- Jails and detention centers in developing and implementing COVID-19 related protocols in accordance with appropriate public health guidance



ECONOMIC SECURITY

- Enhanced financial assistance for unemployed individuals and their families
- Small business and non-profits
- Expanded childcare support for essential workers



FOOD SECURITY

- Expanded food assistance support, including an expansion of WIC & SNAP eligible items
- Expanded school meal programs during school closures
- Enhanced communications support to ensure families with school-age children have access to food programs



HOUSING STABILITY & SECURITY

- Individuals who are in need of temporary housing (quarantine, isolation, etc.)
- Mortgage assistance for individuals, small businesses, and non-profit housing providers
- State-wide eviction moratorium with back pay considerations/support
- Expanded housing quality, health, and safety inspections for occupied rental units and federally assisted housing during shelter in place orders
- Enhanced infrastructure for unhoused populations, including expanded housing options and hygiene stations



DATA

- Data integration to monitor the spread of disease in real time
- Data sharing between LHDs, the State and federal governments
- Development of metrics to comply with local, State and federal plans for reopening and lifting stay-at-home orders
- Integration of disaggregated race/ethnicity data in all COVID-19 related reporting, subject to patient privacy protections

