

March 27, 2020

## California Advocacy Network for Children with Special Health Care Needs

News, policy updates, resources, events, and advocacy opportunities

Dear Readers,

We are sending this extra edition of the Newsletter to provide a few COVID-19 resources that are relevant to children with complex conditions and those who care for them. The Foundation's office is closed, but staff are working remotely and our operations are continuing. We wish good health to you and your families.

Please also see our [webpage](#), where we will update COVID-19 information and add links on an ongoing basis. If you know of helpful resources please send the links to [info@lpfch.org](mailto:info@lpfch.org).

- [COVID-19: Information for Families of Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs](#) – from the American Academy of Pediatrics. A recording and article with suggestions for what families can do to keep safe and healthy, compiled by a pediatrician and a representative from Family Voices. Includes advice on preparing the home, medical appointments, supplies, schooling, coping, and more.
- [Coronavirus Information and Resources](#) – from Family Voices. Advice about what families of children with special health care needs can do.
- [Are You Ready? Preparing for Emergencies: Tips for Families](#) (PDF) – from Family Voices. Advice on how to keep informed, build a family plan, and assemble necessary supplies.
- [Resources Specific to COVID-19 Response](#) – from the Catalyst Center. Includes a Medicaid toolkit, frequently asked questions about Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, coverage and benefits information, and additional links.
- [Supplemental Fact Sheet Addressing the Risk of COVID-19 in Preschool, Elementary and Secondary Schools While Serving Children with Disabilities](#) (PDF) – from the US Department of Education. A clarification about distance learning to amend an earlier policy statement. Notes that ensuring compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and other federal regulations should not prevent any school from offering educational programs through distance instruction.

Two federal COVID-19-related bills recently became law, and a third was signed today by the President. While all the effects are yet to be understood, here are recent analyses of the first two laws:

- [Small Victories, but Stimulus Bill Overlooks Many Critical Needs of People with Disabilities](#) – from The Arc. Notes lack of funding for in-home support services, no paid time off for family caregivers, and other critical issues.
- [The Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Summary of Key Provisions](#) – from the Kaiser Foundation. Includes information about paid sick and medical leave, health insurance, and a range of other family-related issues.

ICYMI: [In-Home Virtual Care for Children with Complex Conditions During Social Distancing](#) – Representatives from four complex care programs around the country have recorded discussions about how they are providing tele-health services for children with medical complexity during the COVID-19 outbreak. The programs represented are Mercy Hospital in St. Louis, University of Texas in Houston, Children's National in Washington, DC, and Baystate Hospital in Massachusetts.

### We'd like to hear from you

Let us know what's happening with your organization or family. Email newsletter editor Eileen Walsh at [Eileen.Walsh@lpfch.org](mailto:Eileen.Walsh@lpfch.org) with your news or updates.

