



Dear Members,

CPCA is closely monitoring developments from the Centers on Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) related to the COVID-19, a respiratory disease caused by a new coronavirus. We would like to take this opportunity to share with you the latest updates, as well as resources to assist you in improving your readiness to respond to the likely spread of COVID-19. We stand ready to support all of you at the front lines of this public health emergency.

Both the World Health Organization and Health and Human Services Secretary Azar have declared a public health emergency for the United States. A public health emergency declaration allows Secretary Azar to take certain actions in response to the COVID-19, including making funding requests. According to Secretary Azar, “the White House sent a request to Congress to make at least \$2.5 billion in funding available for preparedness and response.” Additionally, several counties, including San Diego, Solano, Santa Clara, San Francisco, and Orange, have declared states of emergency in order to access mutual aid from state and federal partners to combat the novel coronavirus if needed. Governor Newsom has not declared a statewide emergency.

According to the California Department of Public Health, there are 33 positive cases in California as of February 27, 2020. In a [press briefing](#) on February 25, 2020, Secretary Azar assured the American public that the immediate risk to those living in the United States is low but the risk assessment can rapidly change. He also emphasized the importance of collaborating across federal, state, and local government agencies in responding to the potential spread of the COVID-19.

We understand there are concerns about the novel coronavirus, and as trusted providers in your communities, we recognize the important role you play in helping educate patients while easing fear and anxiety. The COVID-19 is a reminder that public health emergencies can strike at any time, and that community health centers need to be prepared to respond effectively. Below are steps you can take TODAY to mitigate the potential spread of the virus and bolster your health center’s emergency preparedness and response efforts.

1. Stay informed of the latest updates on the COVID-19

- a. [Governor’s Office of Emergency Services](#)
- b. [CDPH Emergency Preparedness Office](#)
- c. [CDC Emergency Preparedness & Response Site](#)

d. [CDC Guidance for Healthcare Professionals](#)

2. Educate patients on prevention

- a. [CDC Information for the Public](#)
- b. [CDC Handouts and Posters](#)

3. Assess your preparedness

Now is the time to review and update your emergency operations plan (EOP), paying special attention to your pandemic influenza plan. Your EOP is essential to minimizing disruption to patient care, ensuring business continuity, and improving recovery efforts. Make sure that staff are trained on your EOP in case of activation. CPCA has developed a number of resources, including templates and trainings, to assist you in developing an EOP. [Click here](#) to access resources.

4. Connect to your local healthcare coalition (HCC)

HCCs collaborate with healthcare and response organizations in a defined geographic location to prepare for and respond to disasters and emergencies. If you are not already connected to your HCC, now is the time to engage. The contact information for HCCs throughout the state can be [found here](#).

We will continue to monitor the situation and provide you updates as we have them. If you have questions/concerns, please contact Bao Xiong at bxiong@cpc.org, Amanda Willard at awillard@cpc.org, or Mike Witte at mwitte@cpc.org.

Regards,



Carmela Castellano-Garcia, Esq.
President and CEO

California Primary Care Association
1231 I Street, Ste 400, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 440-8170



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