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GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

October 4, 2021

TO: IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) AND WAIVER  
PERSONAL CARE SERVICES (WPCS) PROVIDERS

SUBJECT: COVID-19 VACCINE REQUIREMENTS FOR IHSS/WPCS  
PROVIDERS

You are receiving this letter because the new Public Health Order issued on September 28, 2021 requires certain In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) and Waiver Personal Care Services (WPCS) providers to be fully vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine by November 30, 2021. If you live with your recipient(s) and/or provide services to a family member(s), and provide services to no one else, you are not impacted by this Public Health Order.

You must get vaccinated if you are a non-live-in provider who provides services to a recipient who is not your family member. By receiving this letter, you have been identified by the California Department of Social Services as a provider who is required to be vaccinated.

You may be exempted from the vaccine requirement if you have a Qualified Medical Reason or for your Religious Beliefs. To be exempted, you must provide your recipient a signed copy of the *COVID-19 Vaccination Exemption Form* (attached) requesting an exemption from the COVID-19 vaccine requirement and provide the reason. To be eligible for the Qualified Medical Reason Exemption, you must include a written statement with the form, signed by your doctor, nurse practitioner, or other licensed medical professional stating that you qualify for the exemption. The statement should not describe any underlying medical condition or disability but must indicate how long the exemption from the vaccine is expected to last.

If your recipient finds that you meet the requirements of an exemption, instead of getting the vaccine you must:

- Obtain a weekly COVID-19 test, until vaccinated, and,
- Wear a surgical mask or higher-level respirator, **at all times**, while providing services in a recipient's home. You can obtain masks from your local Public Authority.

You are required to maintain your own records of vaccination, or COVID-19 test results if applicable, and must provide them if asked by your recipient. Additionally, if you test positive for COVID-19 you should not be providing IHSS/WPCS services for any recipient as specified by the Department of Public Health until you have been cleared to do so. You should contact your IHSS recipient(s) and let them know you are unavailable, so they can contact their local county office to request assistance with finding another provider until you are well.