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GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

**Date:** March 13, 2020 **Information Notice 20-01**

**To:** Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Organizations

**Subject:** Guidance to PACE Organizations for responding to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Dear PACE Partners:

The State of California is responding to the spread of a respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus (COVID-19). California is actively working with the United States federal government, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), local governments, health facilities, and health care providers across the state to prepare and protect Californians from COVID-19. Community transmission has been confirmed in California, although the extent of transmission remains unknown. For more information on COVID-19, please visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website](#).

Based on CMS guidance, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is informing you that PACE organizations, in order to minimize the risk of serious illness to PACE participants due to COVID-19, may reduce or suspend day center operations, reduce or suspend any non-critical visits and gatherings, and conduct telephonic assessments in lieu of in-home assessments to complete the enrollment process. PACE Organizations are still required to obtain State approval for any programmatic changes not mentioned in this letter.

PACE Organizations are also required to act in accordance with 42 CFR section 460.84 (emergency preparedness), including sending the State their plans for administering their PACE program in response to COVID-19, and notifying the State of any other subsequent programmatic changes. DHCS has received emergency plans from a number of PACE Organizations, and would like to request all PACE Organizations to do the same. DHCS requires PACE emergency plans to determine what appropriate measures should be taken to ensure the safety of the PACE community.

Thank you,

Department of Health Care Services