



MICHELLEBAASS  
DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

**DATE:** December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021

**CCS Information Notice:** 21-07

**TO:** All County California Children's Services Programs and  
Special Care Centers

**SUBJECT:** California Children's Services COVID Flexibilities Ending on  
December 31, 2021

The purpose of this Information Notice is to advise county California Children's Services (CCS) Programs and CCS Special Care Centers regarding the end of two COVID flexibilities, effective December 31, 2021:

- High Risk Infant Follow-up Services – flexibility to extend the age-out limit so that the third and final standard visit may be performed up to 42 months of age.
- Public health nurses (PHNs) – flexibility to temporary reassign PHNs to assist with county COVID activities and vaccine administration.

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), Integrated Systems of Care (ISCD) supports the full and safe reopening of the state, while ensuring that CCS clients are able to safely and timely access their medically necessary services. Although California reopened on June 15, 2021, DHCS continued these flexibilities to allow CCS programs additional time to prepare for a December 31, 2021 end date. DHCS believes these flexibilities can now be safely ended since HRIF facilities are currently operating close to pre-pandemic status, and PHNs are no longer needed to perform COVID activities

As noted on the CCS COVID guidance issued on December 22, 2020, all other flexibilities will continue until the federal public health emergency has been lifted on January 16, 2022, pending extension by the federal government. For a complete list of the CCS program flexibilities, please visit the [CCS webpage](#).<sup>1</sup>

For additional information on the CCS Medical Therapy Program, refer to guidance DHCS issued on June 13, 2021, titled Step 3 Guidance Related to Return to In-Person Services.<sup>2</sup>



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Page 2 of 2

Thank you for your dedication and continued efforts to respond to the needs of California's vulnerable children during this public health emergency. If you have any questions regarding this guidance, please contact the DHCS CCS Medical Policy team at [ISCD-MedicalPolicy@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:ISCD-MedicalPolicy@dhcs.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY**

Richard Nelson  
Division Chief  
Integrated Systems of Care Division

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<sup>1</sup> California Children's Services (CCS) Guidance Relative to 2019-Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/COVID-19/CCS-Guidance-in-Response-to-Coronavirus-COVID-19.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> California Children's Services Medical Therapy Program Step 3 Guidance Related to Return to In-Person Services

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ccs/Documents/CCS-MTP-Step-3-Guidance-Related-to-Return-to-In-Person-Services.pdf>