

March 22, 2020

## **Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance for Healthcare Providers Regarding Law Enforcement, and Child & Adult Protective Services Visitation**

On March 11, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham issued a public health emergency to maximize the resources available to the state to fight the potential spread of COVID-19, commonly known as the coronavirus (“COVID-19”) and minimize public health risks for New Mexicans.

The Department of Health (DOH) has received questions from community members and healthcare providers regarding best practices related to law enforcement, and child and adult protective services officials’ visitations to healthcare facilities, including patient access.

Pursuant to the authority granted in [New Mexico Executive Order 2020-004](#), the DOH hereby directs healthcare providers (effectively immediately) to provide facility and patient access to law enforcement and child and adult protective services officials.

Specifically, this includes:

- NM Children, Youth & Families Department officials responding to reports of child abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation;
- NM Aging & Long-Term Services Department Adult Protective Services officials responding to reports of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation; and,
- Tribal, federal, state, and local law enforcement officials responding to reports of abuse, violence, or criminal activity.

This guidance does not preclude healthcare professionals from conducting COVID-19 related health screenings and assessments of law enforcement and state protective services officials who arrive to meet with a patient and/or conduct other investigative activities. For example, law enforcement and/or state protective services officials may be denied facility/patient access should they present with COVID-19 symptoms (e.g. fever greater than 100° F, dry cough, shortness of breath) and/or have traveled to an [international](#) (e.g. Europe, China, Malaysia, South Korea) or [domestic](#) (e.g. California, Chicago area, New York City area, and Seattle area) area with widespread, sustained, and ongoing COVID-19 transmission in the last 14 days.

Healthcare providers are directed to provide facility and patient access to law enforcement and child and adult protective services officials so they may fulfill their statutory duties, such as but not limited to, assessments and investigations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The DOH appreciates the steadfast commitment of New Mexico’s healthcare providers during this public health emergency.

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