

September 21, 2022

LA County Health Services is proud to share Community Connects, a monthly newsletter designed to inform our valued community partners. As you work to engage and support our diverse communities we will provide you with updates, information and resources.

We appreciate your continued partnership and efforts!

UPDATED COVID-19 BOOSTERS NOW AVAILABLE



Get boosted today. To find a location near you, visit <http://VaccinateLACounty.com>.

Furthermore, Public Health offers in-home COVID-19 vaccinations to those who have difficulties leaving their home. If you, or someone you know, could benefit from an in-home COVID-19 vaccination fill out the online form [here](#), or call 1-833-540-0473 from 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. seven days a week. Multiple languages are available.

ACCESS MONKEYPOX UPDATES THROUGH DPH WEBSITE



Information and resources can be found on the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health website.

[More Info](#)

DHS PROVIDING SAFE YOUTH ZONES

The Safe Youth Zone initiative is a way to ensure temporary haven for any youth who faces a potentially threatening situation and needs a place to go, particularly those in danger from human trafficking and abuse. Oftentimes these youth have no place to go for help and end up going back to unsafe spaces, exploiters, traffickers, or other situations where they may be subjected to more abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation.

KEY STEPS: Departments of Health Services and Public Health

- Youth comes into a Safe Youth Zone site. Take youth to a designated private space in the facility and/or alert staff member who can assess for any immediate resources that may be required (medical care, law enforcement notification, etc.)
- Report suspected child abuse to the LA County Child Protection Hotline 1-800-540-4000
- Provide youth with a safe, secure location to wait for responders to arrive. Provide water and snacks, along with any clothing/blankets needed for the youth to feel comfortable, to the extent possible.

Human Trafficking and Exploitation

- CSEC is child abuse
- Trading sex to meet basic needs is exploitation
- Exploitation also includes labor trafficking, the use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person to work, including illegal work like selling drugs
- Exploitation happens to girls, boys, trans, and gender non-conforming youth, too

Young adults 18+ can also be victims of exploitation

WARNING SIGNS FOR EXPLOITATION

Exploitation happens to youth of all genders. Many youth are trafficked because they are easy targets, and LGBTQI+ youth often feel isolated and alone. This makes them more vulnerable to exploitation of all kinds. Sex and labor trafficking are the most severe forms of exploitation and can happen simultaneously. All trafficked people are entitled to support and protection.

- Shows signs of abuse or neglect (i.e. unexplained bruises or other physical trauma)
- Tattoos, branding or scarring (i.e. crowns, references to money, \$, loyalty)
- Substance use interferes with their functioning
- Provocative, sexualized, or unwashed clothing that is not consistent with the season
- Secrecy regarding intimate partners, friends, associates
- Fearful of exploiter, partner, caregiver, or employer
- Seems afraid to answer questions or appears agitated
- Not in control of personal identification
- Conversation seems scripted
- Youth is exchanging sex for money or material goods, including food, shelter, drugs, clothing, basic needs for themselves or someone else
- Uses language that suggests exploitation (i.e. "the life", "the game", "track/blade")
- Runaway and/or homeless

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LA Health Services is participating in the *Safe Youth Zone* initiative, which provides temporary havens for youth facing potentially threatening situations that need a place to go. The program specializes in helping youth in danger of human trafficking or

abuse and aims to prevent young people from returning to unsafe spaces where they may be subjected to abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation.

[More Info](#)

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

National Hispanic Heritage Month is from September 15th to October 15th. This celebration honors the many contributions, various cultures, and histories of the Latino American community. Latinos in careers (jobs) of education, science, arts, and other careers help make our communities stronger and fairer.



Latino Heritage LA aspires to engage, inspire and highlight contributions made by the Latino community to our nation while bridging cultural gaps and enhancing and connecting the diverse, multiracial and multicultural mosaic that is Los Angeles.

[Learn More](#)

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY EDUCATION MONTH



Foodborne illnesses—also known as [food poisoning](#)—result from eating food contaminated by bacteria, viruses, parasites, and natural (e.g., molds) or chemical toxins. Anyone can get sick from food poisoning, but certain populations are at higher risk. Access the U.S. Food & Drug Administration's website for data, FAQs, social media messaging toolkits, and recommended food safety precautions. Visit the CDC's Food Safety webpage, available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), for information on food safety when eating out or ordering delivery, as well as during the [holidays and other special events](#).

WORLD SEXUAL HEALTH DAY

This year September 4, 2022 was World Sexual Health Day, which serves as a reminder for people to keep good sexual health through their whole life, not just during their reproductive years. By removing the stigma around sexual health, we allow people to build relationships with themselves that are positive, respectful, and healthy.

LA Health Services is committed to providing medical advice about sexual health to people with various sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, sexual characteristics, and people who live with HIV or with disability. During your next visit, talk to your primary care provider about your potential sexual health care needs.

Go to [LGBTQ+ - Health Services Los Angeles County](#) to find a list of health and community resources for the LGBTQ+ community.

Go to [Positive Care/HIV](#) to find a list of places that provide medical care for patients who live with HIV.

[More Info](#)

FREE "I MATTER" GIRLS EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE FOR AGES 12-18



The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation presents a **free event** where girls ages 12-18 can join, learn and hear from powerful women innovators, educators, trailblazers and beyond! Girls will have an opportunity to connect with their peers and speakers to feel connected, inspired, and empowered. Select locations have [transportation pick-up](#) on a first come, first served basis. LA County Parks will host workshops, panels, and keynote speakers. Girls are invited to join and participate in all events. **There are unlimited openings to attend on Saturday, October 1, 2022, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM.**

[Sign Up](#)

EDUCATIONAL TRAINING GRANTS HELP CALIFORNIA WORKERS LEVEL UP



The Golden State Education and Training Grant Program (GSETGP) supports Californians who lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic with a one-time grant of \$2,500 to reskill, up-skill, and access educational or training programs to get back into the workforce.

[More Info](#)

LA COUNTY HELPFUL RESOURCES:

- [Community Vaccine Resource Page](#)
- [COVID-19 Testing](#)
- [Get Ahead - LA Financial Resources](#)
- [Vaccine Locator Tool](#)
- [COVID-19 Resources for Parents and Guardians](#) (Spanish: ph.lacounty.gov/covidinfopadres)
- [One Degree Community Resources](#)

Los Angeles County Health Services

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