

March 18, 2021

Greetings Resource Parents,

I hope this message finds you all well. First and foremost, we want to take this opportunity to thank you, our valued resource parents and Agency partners, for your service and commitment to our children/youth and their families during this very challenging and unexpected past year. It has been quite a year and we recognize your willingness to adapt and the resiliency you have demonstrated in what has been a time of great change. You continue to open your homes and your hearts to support our children/youth and your efforts are nothing short of remarkable. Because of you, we have experienced all-time low numbers of children waiting at Orangewood Children and Family Center for home-based care. You stepped in and provided a safe family-based haven at a time when there was so much uncertainty, fear and loss. Your willingness to care for our children despite worrying about placing yourselves and your loved ones at risk, is unparalleled and inspiring. We can't thank you enough for your act of selflessness and hope that you know how appreciated you are.

We are happy to share the latest updates from the California Department of Public Health outlining the state's [COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Guidelines](#) to include **resource parents as eligible for Phase 1B vaccination**. Resource family approved homes should register in the Othena application <http://www.othena.com> under the **Education and Child Care** category.

Should you need to show proof that you are a resource parent, you can show your RFA Approval Certificate. If you don't have access to yours or need help in obtaining proof, please reach out to your RFA social worker and they will gladly help you with that.

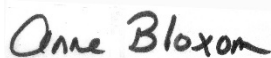
In the meantime, Orange County has moved into the less restrictive Red Tier; a testament to the impact vaccinations and safe health practices are making on the pandemic. We encourage you to balance your desire for a sense of normalcy with doing your part to stay safe, and helping keep others safe from exposure. The current health order still requires that we wear masks, and we are encouraged to maintain physical distancing to ensure the safety of all.

Please also continue to:

- Self-screen for symptoms of COVID-19
- Wear a mask in shared spaces or when near others
- Wash your hands frequently and properly

We continue to move in the right direction, and we thank you for your support, your resilience and your patience.

You are our true HEROES!



Anne Bloxom, Division Director
County of Orange Social Services Agency
Children and Family Services