



**A MESSAGE TO COUNTY OF ORANGE RESOURCE FAMILIES
Consent for COVID-19 Vaccination for Children in
Out-of-Home Placement**

The following is an important message from the County of Orange Social Services Agency (SSA) concerning the vaccination of minor dependent children:

Effective immediately, until further notice children 12 years of age and older will be eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination pursuant to the California Department of Social Services All County Information Notice (ACIN) I-42-21. Please refer to the [Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Guidelines](#) for details from the California Department of Public Health.

A child in out-of-home placement will not receive a COVID-19 vaccination without parental consent or court authorization. Reasonable efforts will be made to obtain parental consent prior to the child receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

Resource parents do not have the authority to obtain the COVID-19 vaccination for children placed in their care.

Note: If the Court previously authorized a relative to provide legal consent for a child's medical care using form JV-448 Order Granting Authority to Consent to Medical, Surgical, and Dental Care, then the relative can sign consent for COVID-19 vaccination.

1. For children in out-of-home placement, the *Assigned Social Worker (ASW)* will:
 - Make reasonable efforts to obtain parental consent (verbal consent is acceptable.)
2. Advise parents of their right to consent to the child's medical care, unless otherwise restricted by the Court. If a parent refuses/declines to provide consent, Court authorization will not be sought.
3. The child is not authorized to sign for their own consent regarding the COVID-19 vaccine.
4. For parents who are unable to provide consent on behalf of the child and the child wants to receive the vaccine, court authorization may be requested in consultation with a Supervisor and Program Manager oversight.
5. Per SSA's Children and Family Services policy, Court authorization for a child to be given the COVID-19 vaccine may be sought under limited circumstances:
 - Parent(s) are unable to provide consent, **and**
 - The child wants to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in consultation with SSSS and PM oversight.
6. **The ASW will notify the caregiver if/when they receive authorization from the parent or the court to provide the vaccine to the child.**
7. There are a variety of resources to make an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccination through:
 - California Department of Public Health - [MyTurn.ca.gov](https://www.myturn.ca.gov)
 - Select "Educational and Child Care" when answering the "Business/Industry You Work In" question
 - Orange County Residents/Workers – [Othena.com](https://www.othena.com)
 - Other: COVID-19 [Vaccine Distribution Channels](#)