



COVID-19 NOTICE #53

Dependent Adult and Senior Citizen Welfare Checks

During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and as the Safer at Home Health Officer Order remains in effect, the community has raised concerns regarding the need to protect our vulnerable senior and dependent adult population.

The most important of those concerns are not only those most vulnerable being infected by COVID-19, but also any rise in elder and dependent adult abuse as a result of limited resources during this health emergency.

A majority of the dependent adult and senior citizen population are currently isolated in assisted living/convalescent facilities, senior centers, or senior living communities without visitation from family or friends, and may have had health needs overlooked by a health care worker, a caretaker, or themselves. Therefore, extra steps should be taken in an attempt to contact those who are vulnerable and may need help, by conducting patrol checks and performing additional community outreach tasks.

Effective immediately, unit commanders of all Department patrol stations will ensure the following:

- Unit commanders will identify all senior living communities, senior centers, dependent adult and assisted living/convalescent facilities within their station jurisdiction and generate a list to provide the facility names and locations;
- Assign their station patrol personnel to conduct directed patrol checks, based on the list of identified facilities; and
- Continuously brief the following protocol:
 - The patrol checks shall be done on a weekly basis;
 - The patrol checks will include visibility patrols in senior communities;
 - Personnel shall attempt to make face-to-face contact with facility site managers at senior centers and/or adult assisted living /convalescent facilities to ascertain any issues or concerns the community/facility is experiencing;
 - These contacts are consensual and shall be treated as an outreach to show support to the facility staff and ease any concerns for family members; and
 - All COVID-19 patrol checks should be entered via Mobile Digital Computer (MDC) by the deputy performing the check, and cleared when finished by using the appropriate COVID-19 statistical code(s) as a secondary clearance code: 808 for directed patrol, see Notice 44 for all others; and
 - Deputies shall don appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) during any public encounter, as necessary and dictated by the circumstances met, and in the manner prescribed in the Health Officer Order.



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Note: Due to COVID-19 exposure concerns at these facilities, personnel should make every effort to greet the facility management at the entrance to the location and not enter the interior of the facility.

The following are suggested guidelines when conducting senior citizen welfare checks:

Senior assisted/convalescent living facilities and senior centers:

- Contact management and explain the reason for the check;
- Inquire as to concerns the facility is facing such as, supply shortages or elder abuse/neglect concerns; and
- Properly address any visible signs of elder abuse/neglect in the facility, according to Department policy and procedure.

Senior living communities:

- Greet citizens who are out in the community and ask if they feel safe;
- Stop by the neighborhood senior activity center, contact community management group, or homeowner association and ask if there are any concerns regarding breaks in usual activity that would lead anyone to believe that a resident may in danger, in need of help with medical issues, or should be checked on otherwise;
- Any criminal concerns brought forth, through observations made by personnel or through discussions with management at senior facilities, should be addressed immediately; and
- All policies and procedures, regarding suspected elder abuse remain in effect and shall be documented when a deputy makes an observation that rises to a violation of the law.

Personnel should also warn senior communities regarding any knowledge of current scams being used to target senior citizens as potential victims in order to deprive them of their money.

For an extensive guide to the identification and types of abuse, follow the link below to Field Operations Directive 04-02, Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse
<http://pars.lasd.sheriff.sdn/Viewer/Manuals/13233/Content/14364?Source=TextSearch&searchQuery=elder%20abuse>

If you have any questions or require additional information, the DOC is available 24 hours at (323) 980-2101, or COVID19DOCNOTIFICATIONS@lasd.org.



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Additional Resources

Manual of Policy and Procedures, [Section 04-04/012.00, Abuse](#)

COVID-19 DOC Notice #44, [New COVID-19 Related Statistical Codes](#)