

For Immediate Release  
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## **SCAM LETTER ALERT**

*Beware of letter requiring testing for COVID-19*

Monterey County's Department of Social Services is alerting clients and the community to BEWARE of a letter circulating on social media that looks like it comes from the state telling clients they must get tested for COVID-19 to continue their benefits.

### THIS INFORMATION IS FALSE.

“We have become aware of a fake letter circulating on social media telling clients they must get tested for COVID-19 in order to continue their benefits. It also tells clients that if they test positive, their children will be removed into foster care. This information is absolutely false,” says Monterey County's Director of Social Services Lori Medina. “The letter asks people to visit a website. The letter, its contents and the website are fake and currently under investigation.”

If you receive such a letter – IGNORE IT! State and county departments will NEVER ask about your health status in connection to an application for benefits. Similarly, children cannot be put into foster care just because a parent may be ill.

Get the facts! Find out more about benefits that are available at: <http://mcdss.co.monterey.ca.us/>.

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