April 10, 2020

Dear Superintendents:

We hope you are keeping well during this difficult time. We know that this public health crisis presents particular challenges for our schools and communities. The Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) are committed to helping students and their families navigate these new stressors.

To continue supporting our school communities, even in the face of these school closures, DMH has partnered with LACOE to develop a plan to address access to critical mental health care supports. For students in need of mental health services, please contact your LACOE representative Jewel Forbes. LACOE will work with the referring party to clarify the need, and DMH staff will assist with linkage to mental health supports and services.

DMH and LACOE will continue to work together to make mental health resources available and respond to community needs. If you have any questions, please reach out to your LACOE representative Jewel Forbes at Forbes_jewel@lacoe.edu, Coordinator II, or your DMH representative Kanchi Tate, Mental Health Clinical Program Manager I, at SchoolMH@dmh.lacounty.gov.

Sincerely,

Jonathan E. Sherin, M.D., Ph.D.
Director

Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D.
County Superintendent of Schools
Los Angeles County Office of Education

JES:tld