



Keeping Our Families and Communities Healthy

The newsletter for Redirected State Staff working for the California Connected COVID-19 Contact Tracing Program

## A Message from Holly Howard

Happy November, everyone.

It's hard to believe that it's been nearly eight months since our lives were turned upside down by the arrival of COVID-19. We've taken on new and unexpected responsibilities, like sheltering in place and working remotely, socially distancing, wearing masks, and the myriad of other ways that the pandemic has uniquely affected each of us.

But in spite of all of it, you've stepped up more than most to take on a role vital to ensuring that California can track and slow the spread of this virus. It simply can't be overstated how your tireless work as Contact Tracers, Case Investigators, Supervisors, and support staff has been the lynchpin of our state's efforts to start getting everyone back to normal. Whether it's reopening our businesses, getting our kids back to school, or creating a safe environment so that we can be with our loved ones for the upcoming holidays, know that you've had a substantial hand in all of the improvements occurring in California day after day.

In short, I just want to personally express my gratitude to each and every one of you. While there may still be challenges ahead, what we've accomplished to this point has filled me with a tremendous sense of optimism. Thank you.



*-Holly Howard*

## CalHR Virtual Wellness Fair

The California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) is currently hosting the State's first [Virtual Wellness Fair](#) from November 2 through November 6, 2020. The event will feature wellness resources such as guided meditation, guided stretching breaks, healthy recipes, and on-demand wellness webinars. [Click here for more information.](#)



## BY THE NUMBERS

Stats & Figures About  
the Contact Tracing Program

3390

REDIRECTED STAFF

1676

DEPLOYED STAFF

28

COUNTIES INVOLVED

COUNTY WITH THE MOST  
DEPLOYED STAFF:

**Los Angeles (883)**

COUNTY WITH THE LEAST  
DEPLOYED STAFF:

**Tulare (5)**



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\*As of 10/20/2020

## New Courses for Transitioning to Case Investigator

Have you been asked to "answer the call" by transitioning from Contact Tracer to Case Investigator? If you've completed the full Contact Tracer Course through the Virtual Training Academy, then the new abbreviated Case Investigation Course is for you. Courses are being held every other week during the month of November, so stay tuned for registration details. Contact [vta.uc.info@gmail.com](mailto:vta.uc.info@gmail.com) for more information.

## Time Off for Holidays

With the holiday season fast approaching, many redirected employees will be requesting time off. It may be difficult to determine staffing needs during this time, so please reach out to your CT/CI Supervisor as early as you can so that you can be accommodated while also ensuring that workload requirements are being met. You can reach out to [CTWelcome@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:CTWelcome@cdph.ca.gov) if you have any questions.



## Upcoming VTA Refresher Courses

On November 13, the VTA team is hosting a 90-minute virtual lab session to help participants refine their CT/CI skills in English or Spanish. Dates and registration information are coming soon! Contact [vta.uc.info@gmail.com](mailto:vta.uc.info@gmail.com) for more information.

## Register for the California Connected Portal

All redirected staff should have received an e-mail with instructions on how to register with the California Connected Portal, an important tool designed to facilitate information distribution and data updates related to your role as redirected staff. If you haven't already, please register for the California Connected Portal. If you haven't received this e-mail please let your supervisor know ASAP so that you can receive this important information. Contact [CTStateRedirects@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:CTStateRedirects@cdph.ca.gov) for more information.

## We Want to Get to Know You!

Each month we'll be featuring a profile of a redirected staff member in this newsletter. If you'd like to share your story, please contact us at [CAContactTracing@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:CAContactTracing@cdph.ca.gov)

# COMING SOON:



## What is the “We ARE California Connected” Initiative?

We have acknowledged that under these strenuous times that we as a program really need to come together and support one another. Up until this point, there have been various meetings and forums for all of the California Connected staff to communicate, however there hasn't been any place that specifically caters to “How can we help support all of the workforce?”

We know that the #1 thing you can use right now is some support. That's why we're excited to announce that our California Connected program has spent over 200+ hours over the past few months building a fully custom support website which all of the California Connected staff will have access to, including YOU! This new website will support you with valuable resources to assist in your communication, confidence, and overall wellbeing.

This new website and coaching resources will launch on Tuesday, November 17th.

### Resources include:

- **Access to the CliftonStrengths Assessment** - A powerful communication tool developed from 40 years of Gallup research. CliftonStrengths helps us to better understand ourselves and our team. This assessment will include all 34 of your strengths and show how you contribute to this amazing program.
- **Bite-Sized Webinars** - 20 minute bursts of motivation and success tips.
- **CliftonStrengths 101** - An e-course that will help you understand your CliftonStrengths results and put them into practice.
- **Right Now Resources** - Videos on confidence, wellbeing, remote working, and more.
- **Individual Coaching** - Select from a team of 34 Strong coaches who have been briefed on your situation and are standing by to serve you however they can. These trained professionals are available for 45 minute, fully confidential sessions designed to help you get the most out of your results.

***We can't wait to share all of this with you in the upcoming weeks. If you have any questions or suggestions on how else we can support you, please email [WeARECAConnected@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:WeARECAConnected@cdph.ca.gov).***