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September 18, 2025

Public Health Denounces Immigration Enforcement Actions That Endanger the Health and Wellbeing of Los Angeles County Residents

Over the past few months, widespread federal immigration enforcement actions have harmed many in our Los Angeles communities. We have seen or heard about federal immigration raids by masked individuals in unmarked cars at workplaces, schools, and stores, resulting in the detainment of documented and undocumented family members, colleagues, friends, and valued community leaders for possible deportation. These actions have a dangerous and chilling impact, tearing apart families and causing widespread fear, especially among the communities we serve.

Current immigration enforcement activities have a direct and harmful impact on the health of immigrants, their families, and our communities. Many residents are increasingly hesitant to leave their homes, even for work, school, medical care, or necessities. Because federal agents are targeting car washes, hardware stores, day laborer centers, restaurants, and other industries employing lower-wage workers, employees in these industries are missing work, jeopardizing their and their family's livelihood. Workers may also be staying silent about unsafe working conditions or labor violations in fear of triggering immigration actions.

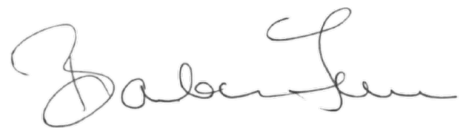
All workers, regardless of immigration status, have the right to report unsafe working conditions and other labor violations without fear. We encourage employers to play an active role in protecting employees. Immigration-related threats in retaliation for exercising rights are illegal. Per the California Labor Commissioner's Office, employers cannot:

- Refuse to honor documents that appear genuine;
- Misuse E-Verify;
- Threaten to call immigration authorities;
- Report workers or their family based on perceived immigration status;
- Engage in any other unfair immigration-related practices in retaliation for exercising their rights.

Los Angeles County is committed to protecting the privacy and dignity of all individuals, regardless of immigration status. Consistent with California law and Los Angeles County policies, Public Health serves all individuals regardless of immigration status and does not collaborate with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or any other immigration enforcement agencies.

During this time of uncertainty and fear, our focus remains on providing essential services to all those in need, including immigrants and their families. We continue to partner with trusted worker and community-based organizations who have deep roots in the community to help ensure that immigrants and their families, regardless of documentation status, feel safe and supported when accessing critical public health and other needed services.

We stand in solidarity with our immigrant communities.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Barbara Ferrer', written in dark ink.

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Resources:

Los Angeles County DPH Immigration Support
http://ph.lacounty.gov/immigration_support/

Los Angeles County Office of Immigrant Affairs
<https://oia.lacounty.gov/>

Los Angeles County DCBA Office of Labor Equity
<https://dcba.lacounty.gov/workers/>