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**California Coronavirus Updates: National Forest Service Extends Closures Of Recreation Sites Through May 15**

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**3:14 p.m.: Advocates worry child abuse may go unreported during stay-at-home order**

California and other states say child abuse hotlines are getting fewer calls, and that has officials worried that cases are going unreported.

Child welfare agencies have lost some of their best eyes and ears since the coronavirus pandemic triggered school closures and stay-at-home orders.

"There are a number of people who would normally be in contact with families and with children who really don't have that opportunity right now," said Sheila Boxley, who heads the Child Abuse Prevention Center in Sacramento. She said that includes teachers and child care providers.

The California Department of Social Services says there was an 18% drop in referrals over this time last year. Nevada saw a 14% drop.

Boxley and other advocates are asking people to report suspected cases of abuse or neglect to Child Protective Services.

"Whether they hear their next-door neighbor's children crying all the time or they believe the children are being left alone or anything else that might concern them," Boxley said.

Officials say child abuse and neglect are likely to increase during the pandemic.