

The New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of Developmental Disabilities

1

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE
(COVID-19)
UPDATE FOR FAMILIES AND
PROVIDERS

January 21, 2021



Agenda

2

- COVID-19
- February Webinars
- Updated Incident Reporting Guidance
- PPL Webinar Series for Vendors
- Day Program Re-Opening
- COVID-19 Vaccine Information
- Resources

New Jersey COVID-19 Current Statistics*

3

State of New Jersey	
Positive	572,306
Deaths	18,421

**This update is as of Wednesday, January 20, 2021.*

For regular updates: <https://covid19.nj.gov/>

Consider downloading COVID Alert NJ on your Apple or Android smartphone:

<https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/app>



DDD Specific COVID-19 Statistics*

4

	Community		Developmental Centers	Total
	Licensed	Own Home		
Positive	1,424	366	657	2,447
Deaths	86	39	49	174

DDD-specific statistics are updated weekly. Community data includes individuals **actively under DDD services in settings such as group homes, supervised apartments, out of state, and own-home settings.*

Full detail, including data for individuals not under services for whom reporting is voluntary and provided for informational purposes only, can be found at [NJ Department of Human Services COVID-19 Information](#).

DDD February Webinar Schedule

5

- February Update webinars:
 - Thursday February 4, 2021 – 10:30 am
 - Thursday February 18, 2021 – 10:30 am
- Use links below to register:
 - [Register for February 4 Update Webinar](#)
 - [Register for February 18 Update Webinar](#)

Updated Incident Reporting Guidance

6

- The Office of Program Integrity and Accountability (OPIA) updated the COVID-19 Incident Reporting guidance to include the following:
 - Testing is not required if the staff or resident has had a positive test result in the past 90 days.
 - Testing is required if positive result was more than 90 days in the past.

PPL Webinar Series for Vendors

7

- PPL will conduct a webinar series for community vendors (e.g., Goods & Services vendors), *PPL Talks to Vendors*, from January through March 2021.
 - Target audience is vendors but anyone may attend, including individuals, family members, and support coordinators.
 - All webinars occur on Tuesday.
 - Pre-registration is not required. To join the *PPL Talks to Vendors* webinar, simply click on the Join Webinar Now link at **12:00 NOON** on the date of the event.
 - ✦ **January 26, 12:00 Noon:** [Join PPL Vendor Webinar Now](#)
 - ✦ **February 23, 12:00 Noon:** [Join PPL Vendor Webinar Now](#)
 - ✦ **March 23, 12:00 Noon:** [Join PPL Vendor Webinar Now](#)

Day Program Re-Opening

8

- At this time, due to the current surge in New Jersey of COVID-19 cases, DDD-funded congregate day service settings remain closed.
 - A re-opening date is not yet established.
 - The Division will provide at least two weeks' notice once a re-opening date is identified.
 - At such time that a re-opening date is identified and two weeks' notice is provided, the previously-released Congregate Day Program Re-Opening Requirements will be in effect.

COVID-19 Vaccine

9

- NJDOH encourages all residents to stay up to date on vaccination information and to share factual and reliable information.
 - Follow @NJDeptofHealth, @NJGov and @GovMurphy on social media.
 - Visit [covid19.nj.gov](https://www.covid19.nj.gov) for information on the State's COVID-19 response.
 - View a COVID-19 Vaccination Essentials webinar co-hosted by the New Jersey Department of Health, Rutgers, and the Nicholson Foundation:
https://rwjms.rutgers.edu/community_health/other/project-echo/covid-19.

COVID-19 Vaccine

10

- DSPs and SDEs, as outlined below, continue to be eligible for Phase 1A vaccination.
- Reminder - “*healthcare personnel*” are paid or unpaid people who work in a healthcare setting, who may have direct or indirect contact with infectious persons or materials.
- This includes the following:
 - DSPs in State’s Developmental Centers;
 - DSPs in IDD group homes;
 - DSPs in IDD day programs; and
 - Self-Directed Employees (SDEs) in private homes.

COVID-19 Vaccine

11

- NJ DOH does not require documentation/”proof” of health care worker status to register for/receive the vaccine. Please see [NJDOH COVID-19 Vaccine](#) webpage.
- Those that feel they meet the definition of a Phase 1A healthcare personnel may:
 - Pre-register to receive the vaccine on the newly-launched [New Jersey Vaccine Scheduling System \(NJVSS\)](#).
 - Receive the vaccine at one of the locations listed at [Health Care Workers COVID-19 Vaccine Locations](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine

12

- As announced on January 14, 2021
 - Residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and staff in congregate residential settings (group homes and supervised apartments) are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as part of Phase 1A. Please review the information on [Who is eligible for vaccination in New Jersey?](#)
 - Both (a) individuals aged 65 and older, and (b) individuals ages 16-64 with medical conditions, [as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), that increase the risk of severe illness from the virus are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

As of January 14, 2021, the following groups are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine:

- ✓ **Paid or unpaid persons working or volunteering in a healthcare setting**
- ✓ **Residents of long-term care facilities and other congregate settings**
- ✓ **Frontline first responders**
- ✓ **Persons aged 65 and older**
- ✓ **Persons aged 16 to 64 years old who have at least one chronic medical condition that poses high-risk for severe COVID-19:**

- Cancer
- Chronic Kidney Disease
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Down Syndrome
- Heart conditions (e.g. heart failure, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathies)
- Immunocompromised (weakened immune system) due to organ transplant (consult with your doctor)
- Obesity (e.g. body mass index of 30kg/m² or higher)
- Pregnancy (consult with your doctor)
- Sickle cell disease
- Smoking
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus

These groups can start making vaccination appointments. More groups will become eligible in the coming weeks.

For a list of open vaccination sites nearest to you and register for a COVID-19 vaccine visit [covid19.nj.gov/vaccine](https://www.nj.gov/covid19/vaccine)



COVID-19 Vaccine

14

- As announced on January 15, 2021
 - The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have partnered with Walmart Pharmacy to provide a targeted vaccine allocation through the Federal Retail Pharmacy Partnership.
 - This closed-POD (point-of-dispending) program launched this week and consists of 12 Walmart Pharmacy sites.
 - Each Walmart site will set aside up to 12 hours per week for vaccinations of I/DD residents only.

COVID-19 Vaccine

15

- The directors at each Walmart site will work directly with residential providers to schedule vaccine appointments for their residents.
- The Walmart COVID-19 Vaccine Closed-POD Program will be supplied a dedicated allocation from New Jersey's vaccine supply.
- Agencies that were included in the Quest COVID-19 Testing Program are eligible.

COVID-19 Vaccine

16

- Agencies that are enrolled in the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program are not part of this program and should continue working with their designated pharmacy provider.
- Residential providers, residents and families should review the [Walmart COVID-19 Closed-POD Program for Residents with IDD in Congregate Residential Settings Licensed by the Department of Human Services](#) overview document for more details on logistics and pharmacy assignment.

COVID-19 Vaccine

17

- Please note the closed-POD option is **not** the only way for an individual with IDD residing in a congregate setting to be vaccinated.
- Vaccine supply in New Jersey remains limited, so agencies are advised to exercise multiple methods to receive a vaccine.
- Residential staff and residents are also able to register for and receive the COVID-19 vaccine at any of the [COVID-19 Vaccine Locations for Eligible Recipients](#).
- For a complete list of vaccine-eligible categories of individuals, please review the information on [Who is eligible for vaccination in New Jersey?](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine in New Jersey

18

- Six mega sites throughout New Jersey will serve as vaccination hubs for phased priority groups:
 - Atlantic County: Atlantic City Convention Center
 - Bergen County: Racetrack at Meadowlands, East Rutherford
 - Burlington County: Moorestown Mall – **OPEN**
 - Gloucester County: Rowan College of South Jersey, Sewell – **OPEN**
 - Middlesex County: New Jersey Convention and Exposition Center, Edison – **OPEN**
 - Morris County: Rockaway Townsquare – **OPEN**
- These six state-coordinated sites will vaccinate eligible populations based on New Jersey's phased approach as vaccine supply allows.
- After these phases are complete, the general public will be eligible for vaccination. The timing of the progression among the groups depends on the supply of vaccine to the state.

COVID-19 Vaccine

19

- NJ DOH is providing updates on the COVID-19 vaccine via a weekly newsletter, *Vax Matters*.
 - Current and past issues of the NJDOH *Vax Matters* newsletter, as well as other vaccine resources, are available on the [NJDOH COVID-19 Vaccine](#) webpage.
- DDD will continue to provide updates as we receive them.

COVID-19 Vaccine

20

- The Arc of New Jersey has released a [COVID-19 Vaccine Video for Individuals with I/DD](#).
- This short video will help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) know what to expect when they are able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

The Boggs Center Informational Resources About the COVID-19 Vaccine Now Available Online

<https://rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter/publications/COVID19Vaccine.html>

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Facts for the Developmental Disabilities Community](#)
- [Getting A COVID-19 Vaccine: A Social Story for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#)

Visit The Boggs Center's [COVID-19 Webpage](#) for additional resources related to the Coronavirus. Topics include:

- Healthcare and Communication
- Supporting Physical & Emotional Well-Being and Mental Health
- Employment
- Grief & Loss
- Planning for Emergencies
- Supporting Students with Disabilities
- Facemasks

http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/departments_institutes/boggscenter/links/COVID-19Resources.html

RUTGERS
Robert Wood Johnson
Medical School

THE BOGGS CENTER ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
New Jersey's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service
New Jersey's Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Program

COVID-19 VACCINE FACTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COMMUNITY

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a virus that spreads easily and can make people very sick. People with developmental disabilities play an important role in preventing the spread of COVID-19. Friends, family, and supporters play an important role in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

RUTGERS
Robert Wood Johnson
Medical School

THE BOGGS CENTER ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
New Jersey's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service
New Jersey's Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Program

GETTING A COVID-19 VACCINE: A SOCIAL STORY FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a virus that spreads easily and can make people very sick. The COVID-19 vaccine is a medicine that prevents you from getting COVID-19. Like most vaccines, the COVID-19 vaccine is given by shots using a needle. This social story can help you understand why it's important to get a COVID-19 vaccine and what you can expect.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are different versions of the vaccine. Most require 2 shots given 3 to 4 weeks apart.

I want to protect myself and people around me from getting sick from COVID-19.

I will get a COVID-19 vaccine so I don't get very sick from COVID-19.

Important Resources

22

- [NJ Department of Health](#)
24-Hour Hotline: 1 (800) 222-1222
- [NJ Department of Human Services COVID-19 Information](#)
- Contact information for [Local Health Departments in NJ](#)
- Contact information for [County OEM Coordinators in NJ](#)

Important Resources

23

- Disability Rights New Jersey
 - 1-800-922-7233 (toll-free in New Jersey only)
- Ombudsman for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and their Families
 - 1-609-984-7764
- New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities
 - 1-800-792-8858

Important Resources

24

- For assistance during this time:
 - For issues, call the Division Community Services office for your county or 1 (800) 832-9173.
 - When calling, you will be connected with the Division's answering service who will take information about the circumstance and have a Division staff person reach out.
 - For routine questions: DDD.FeeForService@dhs.nj.gov
 - For COVID-related questions: DDD.COVID-19@dhs.nj.gov
 - To report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation: call 1 (800) 832-9173, then press 1.

Highlighted Resources

25

- For individuals, families and caregivers
 - [Boggs Center COVID-19 Information and Resources](#)
- For individuals:
 - NJ Self-Advocacy Project's [Stay Healthy at Home Webinar Series](#)
- For Direct Support Professionals
 - [National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals \(NADSP\) COVID-19 Toolkit for DSPs](#)
 - [CDC Guidance for Direct Service Providers](#)