

The New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of Developmental Disabilities

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

February 4, 2021



Agenda

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- COVID-19 Statistics
- February Webinars
- Updated Incident Reporting Guidance
- Day Program Re-Opening
- COVID-19 Testing
- COVID-19 Vaccine
- Resources

New Jersey COVID-19 Current Statistics*

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State of New Jersey	
Positive	629,360
Deaths	19,455

**This update is as of Wednesday, February 3, 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*

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	Community		Developmental Centers	Total
	Licensed	Own Home		
Positive	1,595	427	666	2,688
Deaths	86	42	51	179

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

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

Updated Incident Reporting Guidance

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- The Office of Program Integrity and Accountability (OPIA) updated the [COVID-19 Incident Reporting](#) guidance.
- Reporting positive COVID-19 cases has been adjusted to occur on a person-by-person basis using traditional incident report forms.
- This allows OPIA to capture and track follow-up actions such as quarantine, additional testing, cleaning protocols, etc.
- Agencies should review the referenced document in its entirety.

Day Program Re-Opening

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- At this time, due to the continued COVID-19 positivity in New Jersey, DDD-funded congregate day service settings remain closed.
 - A re-opening date will be provided once available.
 - 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 Testing

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- Those residential agencies mandated to participate in the Quest Diagnostics COVID-19 Testing Program are reminded that they must complete testing by February 26, 2021.
- This program makes COVID-19 testing available to consenting residents of licensed settings and staff.
- Please note that the [CDC](#) relays that neither of the recently authorized and recommended vaccines can cause a person to test positive on [viral tests](#), which are used to see if you have a current infection.

COVID-19 Vaccine

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- 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 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

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- 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.

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.covid19.nj.gov/vaccine)



COVID-19 Vaccine

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- As relayed on the January 21st webinar, 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-dispensing) 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.

COVID-19 Vaccine

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- The directors at each Walmart site are working directly with residential providers to schedule vaccine appointments for their residents.
- The Walmart COVID-19 Vaccine Closed-POD Program is supplied with 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

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- Agencies that are enrolled in the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program who have not been vaccinated are now eligible. Walmart will reach out directly.
- 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.
- The document has been updated to provide additional guidance on consent for vaccination.

COVID-19 Vaccine

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- 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 obtain vaccination.
- 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](#).

COVID-19 Vaccine

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- Six mega sites throughout New Jersey serve as vaccination hubs for phased priority groups:
 - Atlantic County: Atlantic City Convention Center – **OPEN**
 - Bergen County: Racetrack at Meadowlands, East Rutherford – **OPEN**
 - 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

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- The CDC has published [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination](#).
- It includes information about Vaccines, Getting Vaccinated, Vaccine Distribution and Vaccine Safety.
- Individuals are encouraged to review this information.

COVID-19 Vaccine

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- Do I need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others if I have gotten two doses of vaccine?
 - Yes. There is not enough information currently available to say if or when the CDC will stop recommending that people wear masks and avoid close contact with others.
 - Experts need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide in real world conditions.
 - Other factors like how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading also need to be understood.

COVID-19 Vaccine

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- To protect yourself and others continue to:
 - Wear a mask over your nose and mouth;
 - Stay at least 6 feet away from others;
 - Avoid crowds;
 - Avoid poorly ventilated spaces;
 - Wash your hands often.

COVID-19 Vaccine

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- 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

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- 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.



Saving Lives with the COVID-19 Vaccine in NJ Black & Caribbean Communities



VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

A Free Public Event Presented by NJ Dept. of Health

February 11, 2021 at 7pm ET



MODERATOR

DR. KEMI ALLI



PANELIST

DR. CHRIS T. PERNELL



PANELIST

DR. HAROLD LAROCHE



PANELIST

DR. AMESIKA N. NYAKU

REGISTER AT LINK BELOW

February 11 at 7:00 pm - Black and Caribbean Communities

<https://bit.ly/3oqVXw2>



Saving Lives with the COVID-19 Vaccine in NJ Latinx Communities



VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

A Free Public Event Presented by NJ Dept. of Health

February 15, 2021 at 7 pm ET



MODERATOR

AMANDA MEDINA-FORRESTER



PANELIST

MARCELLA PEREZ, MD



PANELIST

GINA MIRANDA-DIAZ, DNP



PANELIST

DR LUIS ESPINA

REGISTER AT LINK BELOW

February 15 at 7:00 pm - Latinx Communities –

<https://bit.ly/3tidR7x>

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

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- [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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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](#)