

The New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of Developmental Disabilities

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

June 10, 2021



Agenda

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- COVID-19 Statistics
- June Webinar
- Day and Residential Guidance
- Direct Support Professionals Survey
- FFS Agency With Choice Update
- Homebound Vaccination
- Energy Assistance
- Statewide Transition Plan
- Guide for Self-Directed Services and Supports Brokerage
- Resources

New Jersey COVID-19 Current Statistics*

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State of New Jersey	
Positive	889,255
Deaths	23,616

**This update is as of Wednesday, June 9, 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	1,878	638	659	3,175
Deaths	113	59	41	213

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](#).

COVID-19 Update Webinar Schedule

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- June Update webinar:
 - Thursday June 24, 2021 – 10:30 am
- Use link below to register:
 - [Register Now for June 24 Webinar](#)

Day and Residential Guidance

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- The Division is in the process of updating existing the Day and Residential guidance due to the recent lifting of certain restrictions.
- Updated guidance will be released as soon as possible.

Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Survey

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- The Institute on Community Integration at The University of Minnesota and the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) are conducting a 12-month follow-up survey for a national DSP Workforce COVID-19 study:

[Direct Support Professionals Survey June 2021](#)

- We encourage providers to share this survey link with DSPs and we encourage all DSPs to complete the survey.

FFS Agency with Choice Update

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- Approximately 200 individuals have transitioned into Fee for Service (FFS) with the new Agency with Choice option available, with 300+ individuals currently in the process of transitioning.
- Anticipate opening FFS Agency with Choice model to individuals already enrolled in the Supports Program or Community Care Program by end of 2021.

In-Home COVID-19 Vaccine for Homebound

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- NJ Department of Health (NJ DOH) has established a program to provide in-home COVID-19 vaccines to people in New Jersey who are homebound, including individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- If you are unable to leave home to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, or are the caregiver of someone who is homebound, you may request an in-home vaccination appointment by completing this [Request for In-Home Vaccination](#).
- For assistance completing the request by phone, call the NJ COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center at 1-855-568-0545.
- Information is available on the NJ DOH webpage, [How can I get the COVID-19 vaccine if I'm homebound?](#)

Vaccine Transportation Resources

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- NJ TRANSIT has established [VAXRIDE NJ](#), a program offering free rides to and from vaccine appointments.

- ModivCare (formerly LogistiCare) manages non-emergency transportation, *including transportation to and from vaccine appointments*, for Medicaid recipients.
- To schedule by phone, call **866-527-9933**. (TTY for deaf or hearing impaired members: 866-288-3133)
- To schedule online, go to the [Member Portal](#).

VAXRIDE NJ

Through our VAXRIDE initiative, NJ TRANSIT is committed to helping New Jerseyans get vaccinated against COVID-19.

For the latest State of New Jersey vaccine information, please visit covid19.nj.gov/vaccine.

You can search for available vaccine appointments across New Jersey by visiting covid19.nj.gov/pages/finder.

Maps and useful information about vaccine locations and the NJ TRANSIT bus, light rail, rail and Access Link service to those locations can be found on our website at njtransit.com/vaxride.

Through the generous contributions of our partner organizations, NJ TRANSIT is pleased to offer no-cost tickets for rides to and from vaccine appointments.*

Generously Sponsored By



**GET A
FREE RIDE
TO/FROM YOUR
VACCINATION!**

To receive no-cost VAXRIDE tickets to and from your vaccine appointments:

Using the NJT Mobile App:

- If you need assistance planning your trip, visit the map at njtransit.com/vaxride.
- After making a vaccine appointment, open the NJ TRANSIT mobile app, tap "Buy Tickets" and select your origin and destination.
- Select up to 4 One Way Adult tickets (2 for each appointment) and tap "Proceed to Checkout".
- Enter the promo code "VAXRIDE"; tap your payment method of choice and purchase the tickets. It should indicate no charge for the tickets.
- The tickets will appear in the "My Tickets" section of the app, and can be activated for travel for your appointments.

By Visiting a NJ TRANSIT Customer Service Office or Calling Customer Service:

- After making a vaccine appointment, visit a NJ TRANSIT Customer Service Office at one of the locations found at njtransit.com/contact/customer-service-locations or call NJ TRANSIT Customer Service at (973) 275-5555.
- Register to receive up to 4 one-way tickets (2 for each appointment), which will either be issued to you in person or mailed to your home.*
- Present your tickets to the operator or fare collector during your travel to and from your appointments.

For Certified Access Link Customers:

- After making a vaccine appointment, certified Access Link customers using Access Link Online or the Access Link Mobile App to make reservations can email ADAResv@njtransit.com with the following information for the rides to apply the "VAXRIDE" free fare to:

- 1) Client ID #
- 2) A contact number
- 3) The booking ID numbers

Upon application of the code to the four (4) rides, a confirmation email will be sent to you.

Certified Access Link customers may also participate by simply indicating they wish to participate in the VAXRIDE program when making a reservation through the Access Link phone line at (973) 491-4224.

*While supplies last. Not valid for interstate travel or on Metro-North routes. Tickets are non-refundable and non-transferable. Ticket value limited to \$20 per ticket, with excess cost to be paid by the customer. All tickets subject to NJ TRANSIT Terms and Conditions. Expect mail delivery of tickets within 7-10 days.

njtransit.com/vaxride



Moratorium on Utility Shut-Offs Ending

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- The temporary moratorium on utility shut-offs in New Jersey is ending **June 30, 2021**.
- May compound the challenges that some individuals already face when paying for utilities.
- NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) developed a flyer highlighting energy assistance programs. (Also available in Spanish)

Energy Assistance Programs

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- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
 - ✦ Provides grants for heating costs, forgiveness of overdue balances, certain medically-necessary cooling expenses, and heating costs included in rent.
 - ✦ Apply online using [NJ's DCAid Eligibility Tool](#) or call 800-510-3102 to have an application mailed. Find your local application agency at [NJ Energy Assistance](#) www.energyassistance.nj.gov.
 - ✦ Application deadline is June 30, 2021.

Energy Assistance Programs

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- Universal Service Fund (USF)
 - ✦ Provides monthly credits on natural gas and electric bills for those who spend more than 3% of annual income on electric and/or gas; or more than 6% on electric heating costs.
 - ✦ You can apply for USF with the LIHEAP application or call 800-510-3102.

Energy Assistance Programs

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○ Fresh Start

- ✦ Allows eligible households participating in USF for the first time to earn unlimited forgiveness on overdue balances by making full, on-time payments for 12 months.
- ✦ You cannot apply for Fresh Start, but if you are eligible you will be enrolled by your utility company and receive information about the program in the mail.

Energy Assistance Programs

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- PAGE (Payment Assistance for Gas and Electric)
 - ✦ Provides credits on natural gas and electric bills for low to moderate-income households (income from \$0 up to \$123,430 for a family of four). You must apply for USF and LIHEAP first if income-eligible for those programs.
 - ✦ Information available at [NJ Power On](#) or call 732-982-8710.

Energy Assistance Programs

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- Lifeline Utility Assistance Program
 - ✦ Designed to help eligible low-income senior citizens and the disabled with their electric and natural gas utility costs.
 - ✦ Apply for Lifeline with the NJSave application at [NJ Division of Aging Services](#) or by calling 800-792-9745.
- Deferred Payment Agreements (DPAs)
 - ✦ Call your utility company before June 30 to request a payment arrangement for any overdue balances you cannot pay in full.
 - ✦ If you find yourself in danger of shut-off, please call NJ BPU at 800-624-0241 or visit [NJ Board of Public Utilities](#).

Statewide Transition Plan

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- Beginning in July 2021, the Division will provide surveys to providers for them to complete to ensure continued compliance with the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule.
- All settings must be in compliance by March 2023.
- Residential providers will be required to complete one survey for every *provider managed residential location* (licensed and unlicensed).
- Day providers will be required to complete one survey for every *day services location*.

Statewide Transition Plan

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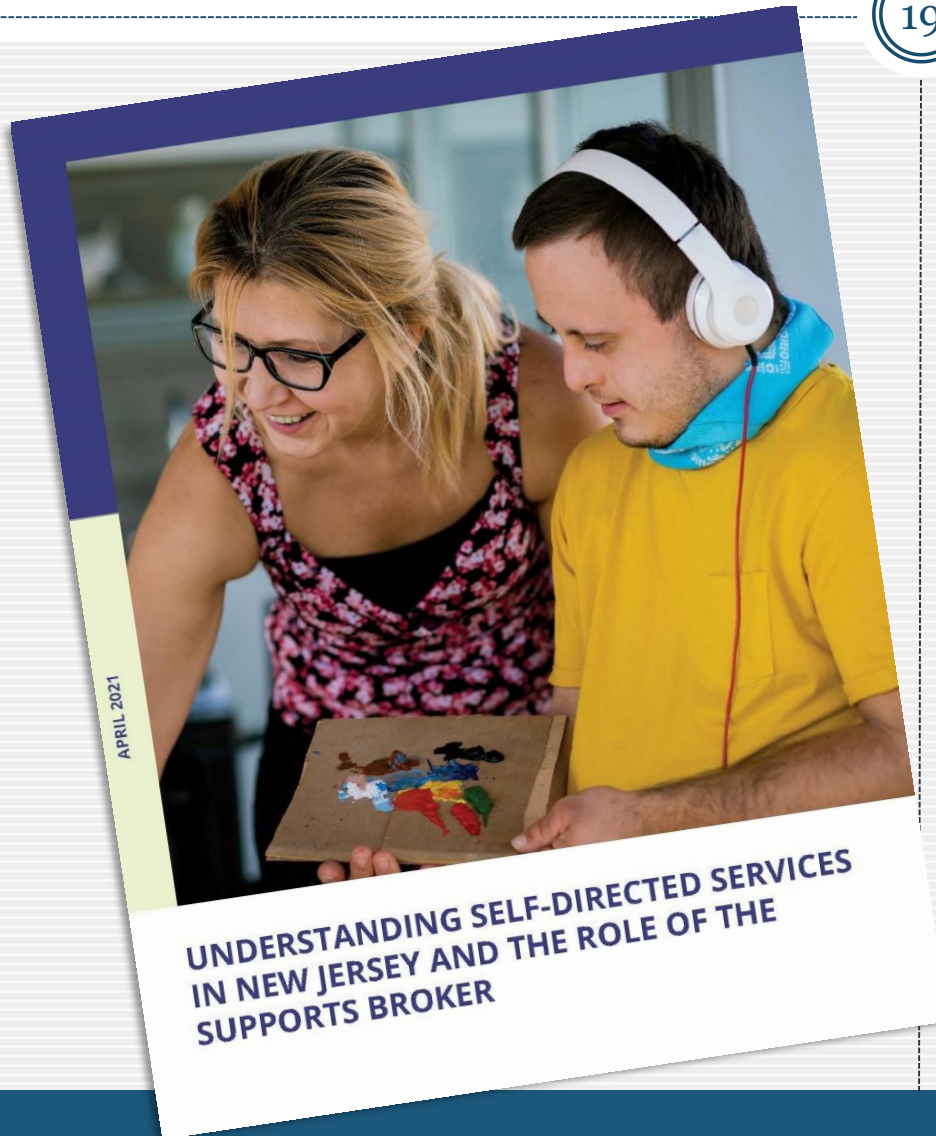
- Surveys will cover areas such as:
 - Confirmation that the site is home and community based.
 - Is integrated in and supports access to the community.
 - Facilitates participant choice.
 - Ensures rights to privacy, dignity, respect, freedom from coercion and restraint.
 - Optimizes independence.
 - Accessibility.
- If restrictions are required they must be documented in an individuals individual service plan (ISP).

NEW!

Guide to Self-Directed Services and the Role of the Supports Broker

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- In collaboration with the Division and the NJ Collaborative for Citizen Directed Supports, and with input from people with disabilities and families, [The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities](#) has developed a new resource for individuals and families: Understanding Self-Directed Services in New Jersey and the Role of the Supports Broker.



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](#)