

State of New Jersey



NJ DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Division Update for Individuals, Families, and Providers

January 25, 2023

Agenda

- Upcoming Webinars
- COVID-19 Statistics
- DSP and Supervisor Wage Increase
- Unwinding of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Rules for Medicaid
- Reminders for Service Providers on the HCBS Settings Final Rule
- Resources

Next DDD Update Webinar

- February Update Webinar:
 - Thursday, February 23, 2023 – 10:30 am.
 - [Register for the February Webinar.](#)
- Additional 2023 dates and registration information can be found on the Division's [Public Update Meetings](#) website.

New Jersey COVID-19 Current Statistics*



State of New Jersey	
Positive	2,507,916
Deaths	32,633

**This update is as of January 25, 2023.*

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*



	Community		Developmental Centers	Total
	Licensed	Own Home		
Positive	5,202	2,916	913	9,031
Deaths	137	89	43	269

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

DSP and Supervisor Wage Increase

- On January 1, 2023 rates were updated to support the 2023 DSP and Supervisor Wage Increase.
- Please see below for more information:
 - [Public Notice](#)
 - [Quick Guide - DSP & Supervisor Rates](#)
 - [Quick Guide - New Individual Budget Up To Amounts](#)
 - [FAQ - FY2023 DSP and Supervisor Rate Increases](#)



Unwinding of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Rules for Medicaid

- Since March of 2020, Medicaid has followed special rules because of the Public Health Emergency (PHE). This has allowed most Medicaid members to keep their health coverage if they no longer qualified.
- On December 29, 2022, President Biden signed the 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act into law.
- This means that while the PHE continues, all States (Including New Jersey) are now required to resume their Medicaid Eligibility Processes beginning April 1, 2023. This process is also referred to as *Unwinding*.



Unwinding of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Rules for Medicaid

- Preparing for the *Unwinding*:
 - Call 1-800-701-0710 (TTY: 711) to update contact information. This is especially important if you have moved in the last 3 years.
 - Watch for mail related to NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid **and** make sure to reply on time.
 - Continue to ensure income and resources are below the limits for the Medicaid Program in which you are enrolled.
 - Additional information can be found on the DMAHS website:
 - <https://nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/staycoverednj/>
 - <https://nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/staycoverednj/unwinding/>
 - https://nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/staycoverednj/documents/StayCoveredNJ_Toolkit.pdf



Unwinding of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Rules for Medicaid

- What DDD Has Been Doing to Prepare for the *Unwinding*:
 - DDD Waiver Unit/Medicaid Eligibility Helpdesk staff have reviewed monthly reports of individuals enrolled on DDD waivers whose Medicaid is scheduled to terminate.
 - Waiver Unit/Medicaid Eligibility Helpdesk staff have been contacting Support Coordination Agencies (SCAs) and/or legal guardians to inform them of eligibility issues and providing instructions on how to resolve, such as:
 - RFI packets being sent out by Waiver Unit for individuals who are enrolled on a DDD waiver but facing an upcoming termination due to a loss of SSI.
 - Direction to follow up with appropriate entity such as Social Security Administration and/or County Board of Social Services directly to rectify an eligibility issue (suspensions, non-pay status, etc.)



Unwinding of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Rules for Medicaid

- What DDD Has Been Doing to Prepare for the *Unwinding*:
 - DDD Waiver codes have been reopened for individuals who have maintained Medicaid under the PHE to ensure no lapse in waiver coverage.
 - Throughout the PHE, DDD has encouraged individuals to comply with any/all requests to avoid loss of Medicaid during the unwinding. This would include requests such as renewals, RFI packets, etc. coming from DDD or Medicaid directly.
 - The Medicaid Eligibility Helpdesk has continued to respond to Medicaid eligibility questions from SCA staff, families, etc. Individual cases have been reviewed and instruction provided to maintain Medicaid eligibility.



Unwinding of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Rules for Medicaid

- DDD Will Continue to Assist during the *Unwinding*:
 - DDD is working closely with DMAHS and will be receiving updated lists monthly of everyone enrolled on a DDD Waiver who is scheduled to go through Medicaid eligibility redetermination.
 - Additional lists from DMAHS will include those scheduled for monthly renewals as well as those scheduled for termination within that month.
 - Individuals who are terminated due to failure to respond to a renewal/RFI will be able to submit documentation up to 90 days after a termination. In this scenario, the individual would be considered for a retroactive reinstatement if found to be eligible during this timeframe.



Unwinding of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Rules for Medicaid

- DDD Will Continue to Assist during the *Unwinding*:
 - DDD Waiver/Medicaid Eligibility Helpdesk staff will be reaching out to Support Coordinators and/or the individual's legal guardian with more information as we receive it.
 - Please feel free to reach out to the DDD Medicaid Eligibility Helpdesk with any questions:

DDD.MediEligHelpdesk@dhs.nj.gov



HCBS Settings Final Rule

- March 2023 remains the deadline for compliance with Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Settings Final Rule.
- The Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) submitted [Addendum #3](#) of the Statewide Transition Plan (STP) to CMS on November 30, 2022.
- CMS issued Final Approval of the STP on January 20, 2023.
- The Notice of Approval and all Addendums of the STP will be posted on the [DMAHS STP Website](#) shortly.

HCBS Settings Final Rule

- DDD is in the process of reviewing the Corrective Action Plans submitted by providers. Upon completion of the DDD review, providers will receive an email communication that will indicate whether the Corrective Action Plan is:
 - Approved;
 - Approved Pending Heightened Scrutiny Review; or
 - Rejected/further action needed.
- Settings that are pending Heightened Scrutiny review will be contacted when more information is available from CMS.

HCBS Settings Final Rule

- **Support Coordinators:**
 - Assist individuals to choose their services and supports, and who provides them.
 - Communicate settings options to the individual, minimally at the annual Planning Team Meeting, including opportunities for a non-disability specific setting and the option for a private unit in a residential setting. The setting options must be identified and documented in the person-centered service plan and based on the individual's needs, preferences, and, for residential settings, resources available for room and board.
 - As applicable, ensure that for an individual residing in a group home, supervised apartment or attending a day habilitation program, prevocational program, or group supported employment program have any restriction supported by a specific assessed need and justified in the person-centered service plan (i.e. ISP).

Reminders for Service Providers on the HCBS Settings Final Rule

- Documentation for HCBS Modifications must include:
 - Identification of the specific and individualized assessed need; That positive interventions/less intrusive methods have been tried without success; That the description of the modification is clear and directly proportionate to the assessed need; That it is required to keep the individual safe; That there is regular collection/review of data to measure the effectiveness of the modification; That the need for continued use of the modification is regularly reviewed; That the individual/guardian is included in the process.
- Please see section 11.7 *Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Settings Compliance* in the CCP or SP Manual for more detail.

Reminders for Service Providers on the HCBS Settings Final Rule

- Helpful information for Service Providers:
 - [A Provider's Guide to the Home and Community Based Services Final Settings Rule](#)
 - This guide assists service providers with information, best practices, and examples to assist in HCBS compliance.
- Helpful information for individuals and families:
 - [Community Life Video Series](#)
 - The Boggs Center's Community Life Video Series highlights why community life and aspects of the Rule that support it are important to people with disabilities.
 - [DDD's NJ Statewide Transition Plan "At a Glance"](#)
- Additional information can be found at:
 - [Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services Statewide Transition Plan Website](#)
 - [Division's HCBS Statewide Transition Plan Website.](#)



Important Resources

- [The Boggs Center](#)
 - 1-732-235-9300
- [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

- For assistance during this time:
 - For issues, call the Division Community Services office for your county or 1 (800) 832-9173.
 - 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.