



NJ DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Division Update for Individuals, Families, and Providers

April 27, 2023

Agenda

- Upcoming Webinars
- COVID-19 Statistics
- Updated Residential, Day Program, and Support Coordinator COVID-19 Policy
- COVID-19 Helpdesk
- Self-Directed Employee Mandated Training Requirement
- Temporary Service Modifications
- Fiscal Intermediary Update
- Resources

Next DDD Update Webinar

- May Update Webinar:
 - Thursday, May 25, 2023 – 10:30 am.
 - [Register for the May 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	2,567,433
Deaths	32,999

**This update is as of April 27, 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	5,692	3,228	947	9,867
Deaths	139	91	44	274

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.*

Updated Residential, Day Program, and Support Coordinator COVID-19 Policy

- The Division released its updated Residential, Day Program, and Support Coordinator COVID-19 Policy on March 22, 2023
- The policy provides additional information and flexibility related to COVID-19.
- The Division released an amended [Residential, Day Program, and Support Coordinator COVID-19 Policy](#) on April 5, 2023 due to the subsequent release of a new Executive Order.

Updated Residential, Day Program, and Support Coordinator COVID-19 Policy

- On April 3, 2023, Governor Murphy released [Executive Order 325](#). The release of this order impacted the following *high risk congregate settings* funded by the Division:
 - Licensed Community Residences for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD);
 - Certified Day Programs for Individuals with IDD; and
 - Support Coordination Agency Staff.

Updated Residential, Day Program, and Support Coordinator COVID-19 Policy

- [Executive Order 325](#) **removed** the following State COVID-19 vaccination mandates:
 - Requirement that staff working in covered settings be up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccinations (i.e. having received primary series and one booster vaccination); and
 - Requirement that staff who received a qualified medical or religious exemption from COVID-19 vaccination be tested once or twice weekly for COVID-19.
- The above are the only changes made to the April 5 version of the policy. Please review [Residential, Day Program, and Support Coordinator COVID-19 Policy](#) for full detail.

COVID-19 Helpdesk

- The Federal Public Health Emergency will end on May 11, 2023.
- There has been increasingly less traffic to DDD's COVID-19 Helpdesk (DDD.COVID-19@dhs.nj.gov).
- Effective June 30, 2023, DDD.COVID-19@dhs.nj.gov will be retired.
- COVID-19 specific inquiries will be directed to DDD.FeeForService@dhs.nj.gov after that date.
- An automatic return reply will be added to the retired mailbox reminding person's using it to direct inquiries to the new address.

Self-Directed Employee Mandatory Training Requirement (VF/EA SDE Model with PPL)

- The Division's Waiver Programs have requirements around staff training. These requirements are mandatory and apply to Direct Support Professionals and Self-Directed Employees (SDEs).
- These requirements are outlined in Appendix E of the [Supports Program](#) and [Community Care Program](#) Manuals.
- These requirements apply to all SDEs, regardless of familial relationship the SDE may have with the the individual receiving services.
- These training requirements are:

Self-Directed Employee Mandatory Training Requirement (VF/EA SDE Model with PPL)

- **Within six (6) months of hire:**
 - DDD System Mandatory Training Bundle;
 - DDD Stephen Komninos' Law Training;
 - DDD Life Threatening Emergencies (Danielle's Law);
 - DDD Shifting Expectations: Changes in Perception, Life Experience and Services;
 - Prevention of Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation: Modules 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 and practicum;
 - Individual/Family-Developed Orientation (length, content determined by the individual/family).

Self-Directed Employee Mandatory Training Requirement (VF/EA SDE Model with PPL)

- **Within six (6) months of hire and every two years thereafter:**
 - CPR Certification (recertification every two years);
 - Standard First Aid Certification (recertification every two year);
- **Note on CPR/First Aid Certifications**
 - CPR/First Aid training can be completed online but **requires an instructor-led classroom skill section.**

Self-Directed Employee Mandatory Training Requirement (VF/EA SDE Model with PPL)

- In late spring of 2022, due to the impact of the Public Health Emergency, the Division permitted a one-time extension for SDEs with PPL who exceeded the six-month timeframe to complete all mandated trainings.
- During that time, the Division partnered with PPL to ensure all SDEs and their Employers of Record were aware of the SDE Mandatory Training requirements and provided all necessary access and information to assist in completing the required trainings and Training Certification Form.
- At this time, a high number of SDEs are not in compliance with the mandatory training requirements. Therefore, the Division and PPL are again communicating this requirement and will begin implementing a final deadline for those SDEs who have exceeded the six-month timeframe to complete all mandatory trainings as well as the CPR/First Aid Recertification, required every two years.

Self-Directed Employee Mandatory Training Requirement (VF/EA SDE Model with PPL)

- Effective April 1, 2023, all SDEs who have been employed six-months (180 days) or longer must complete all mandated trainings by **June 1, 2023**. This includes CPR/First Aid Recertification, which must occur once every two years.
 - Current SDEs (with a hire date on or before December 1, 2022) have until June 1, 2023 to complete all required trainings and submit the signed Training Certification Form and/or CPR/First Aid Recertification Form to PPL.
 - New SDEs (with a hire date after December 1, 2022) will have six months (180 days) from their date of hire to complete all required trainings and submit the signed Training Certification Form and/or CPR/First Aid Recertification Form once every two years thereafter to PPL.
- If the mandatory trainings and the Training Certification Form and/or CPR/First Aid Recertification Form are not completed and submitted to PPL via njddd@pcgus.com or via fax to 1-844-842-5978 within the required timeframe, you may no longer be able to provide services and may not receive payment for services after the required timeframe.

Temporary Service Modifications

- The Division has updated its [Temporary Service Modifications](#) document to reflect November 7, 2023 as being the date they will sunset.
- The below flexibilities will sunset on November 7, 2023:
 - Remote/Virtual provision of DDD services outside of Classes through Goods and Services.
 - Day habilitation occurring outside of daytime hours and on weekends. Includes remote/virtual services.
 - Certain services to overlap. For example, remote day habilitation occurring at the same time as Individual Supports 15-minute increment.
 - Support Coordinator Visits to be held remotely/virtually.
- Please plan accordingly.
- The Division is reviewing making the allowance for SDE overtime permanent.

Fiscal Intermediary Update

- In 2016, the Department of Human Services (DHS) contracted with Public Partnerships, LLC (PPL) to provide fiscal intermediary services for three self-directed programs. These programs previously had separate contracts and vendors.
 - Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services - Personal Preference Program (PPP);
 - Division of Developmental Disabilities - Self-Directed Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent Model;
 - Division of Aging Services - Jersey Assistance for Community Caregiving (JACC);
- The current fiscal intermediary contract ends in November 2023.

Fiscal Intermediary Update

- After reviewing operation of the consolidated contract, DHS has determined that program needs are best served through a different procurement approach.
- DHS will be re-procuring these services in three ways:

DMAHS/Medicaid Personal Preference Program	Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent	Division of Aging Services (DoAS) Jersey Assistance for Community Caregiving (JACC)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service provision will shift to managed care organizations (MCOs). • Each MCO will provide or contract for fiscal intermediary services according to specific requirements defined and monitored by DMAHS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHS will issue a Request For Proposal (RFP) for the operation of this program. • Note: This is <u>not</u> for the Easterseals Agency With Choice program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHS will issue a Request For Proposal (RFP) for the operation of this program.

Important Resources

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



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.