

State of New Jersey



NJ DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Division Update for Individuals, Families, and Providers

December 16, 2021

Agenda

- COVID-19 Statistics
- January and Calendar Year 2022 Webinars
- New Jersey State Minimum Wage Increase
- Projected January 1, 2022 Rate Increase
- Reminder of January 1 Changes to Day and Residential Temporary Funding
- Upcoming Guidance
- Resources

New Jersey COVID-19 Current Statistics*



State of New Jersey	
Positive	1,138,494
Deaths	25,808

**This update is as of Wednesday, December 15, 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*



	Community		Developmental Centers	Total
	Licensed	Own Home		
Positive	2,061	800	705	3,566
Deaths	118	67	42	227

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

- January Update Webinar:
 - Thursday, January 27, 2021 – 10:30am
- [Register for the January Webinar](#)
- Tentative 2022 Webinar Dates are:

Thursday, January 27, 2022	Thursday, July 28, 2022
Thursday, February 24, 2022	Thursday, August 25, 2022
Thursday, March 24, 2022	Thursday, September 22, 2022
Thursday, April 28, 2022	Thursday, October 27, 2022
Thursday, May 26, 2022	Thursday, November 17, 2022
Thursday, June 23, 2022	Thursday, December 15, 2022

New Jersey State Minimum Wage Increase



- In February 2019, Governor Murphy signed legislation increasing the minimum wage to \$15 per hour by January 1, 2024.
- The next incremental increase takes effect on January 1, 2022, and every January 1 after that through 2024, as follows:

Effective Date	NJ Minimum Wage Increases To
January 1, 2022	\$13 per hour
January 1, 2023	\$14 per hour
January 1, 2024	\$15 per hour

New Jersey State Minimum Wage Increase

- This may impact DDD-funded provider agencies and self-directed employees:
 - Provider agencies must complete wage adjustments to provide at least \$13 per hour as of January 1, 2022, if they are not already.
 - Individuals employing one or more self-directed employees will similarly need to complete wage adjustments to provide at least \$13 per hour as of January 1, 2022, if they are not already.
 - To increase a self-directed employee's hourly wage, individuals must contact their Support Coordinator and the fiscal intermediary that issues payments to their employee.
 - Please note that fiscal intermediaries are prohibited by law from compensating self-directed employees for any amount less than \$13 per hour for services rendered on or after January 1, 2022.



Projected January 1, 2022 Rate Increase

- The next rate increase is the annual DSP and Supervisor Wage Increase and is scheduled for January 1, 2022.
- This will provide about \$1.25 per hour increase to DSPs and DSP Supervisors.
- Impacted services will be:
 - Career Planning, Community Inclusion, Community Based Supports, Day Habilitation, Individual Supports, Pre-Vocational Training, Respite and Supported Employment.



Projected January 1, 2022 Rate Increase

- Provider agencies are required to increase base wages for DSPs and supervisors effective January 1, 2022.
- Increases to DSP and Supervisory compensation must occur no later than March 1, 2022 with funding provided retroactively to January 1, 2022.
- Providers are not permitted to hold higher payments with the intent to release later than the timeframes provided.
- Please review [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information.

REMINDER - January 1, 2022

Changes to Day and Residential Temporary Funding

- Effective January 1, 2022 and as announced earlier this year, the 20% enhancement to Individual Supports Daily Rate claims will expire.
- As announced last month, effective January 1, 2022, State Supplemental Payments will continue, but be reduced from 50% to 25% of the baseline payment.
- Please see [Temporary Day and Residential Funding](#) for detail



Upcoming Guidance Updates

- The Division is working to release updated guidance in the following areas:
 - Residential Visitation Guidance;
 - Day Program Operating Requirements;
 - Residential and Day Screening;
 - Support Coordination Return to Field; and
 - NJ Developmental Center COVID-19 Response Plan.
- These documents will be released shortly. Please monitor DDD Communication emails and the DHS COVID-19 Information Page for updates.



The Boggs Center's Vaccine Facts Series Addresses Common Myths and Concerns

VACCINE FACTS

THE COVID-19 VACCINE IS EFFECTIVE AGAINST THE VIRUS

COVID-19 vaccines are effective and can reduce the risk of getting and spreading the virus that causes COVID-19.

infection **5x**

hospitalization **10x**

mortality **10x**

Being fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus reduces the risk of...

Prepared by RWJMS in partnership with Rutgers Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Last updated: 12/15/2021. For more information, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/covid19/vaccine/>.

VACCINE FACTS

HAD COVID? YOU STILL NEED THE COVID-19 VACCINE

Fact: YOU ARE MORE LIKELY TO GET COVID-19 AGAIN

Unvaccinated people who already had COVID-19 are less likely to have immunity to the virus and are more likely to get COVID-19 again than they were the first time.

Myth: I HAD COVID-19, SO I HAVE IMMUNITY AGAINST THE VIRUS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends waiting 90 days to get the COVID-19 vaccine after:
• monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma (COVID-19 treatment), or
• a diagnosis of COVID-19 (based on PCR or IgG/IgM diagnosis).
Talk to your doctor or health care provider to learn more.

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VACCINE FACTS

SAFE & RESPONSIBLE COVID-19 VACCINE DEVELOPMENT

Fact: AN EARLY START

It took less than 100 days to start testing COVID-19 vaccines, compared with 18 months for the flu vaccine.

Fact: POWER OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Using social media to reach people is a key strategy for reaching vulnerable populations for clinical trials and vaccine uptake.

Fact: STRONG RESEARCH BASE

A number of COVID-19 vaccine research teams worldwide are working to speed up the development of a safe and effective vaccine.

Fact: FOCUSED EFFORTS

Government agencies in the U.S., Europe, and elsewhere are working together to speed up the development of a safe and effective vaccine.

Myth: VACCINE DEVELOPMENT WAS RUSHED

Due to the urgency of the pandemic, COVID-19 vaccine development was accelerated, not rushed. We now have safe and effective vaccines that protect against this deadly virus.

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VACCINE FACTS

THE COVID-19 VACCINE WILL NOT MAKE YOU SICK WITH COVID-19

Fact: COVID-19 VACCINES DO NOT CONTAIN THE VIRUS

None of the vaccines authorized for use in this country contain the COVID-19 virus. Since the vaccines do not contain the live virus, they cannot make you sick with COVID-19.

Myth: VACCINES WILL MAKE YOU SICK WITH COVID-19

Don't get sick with COVID-19. Get vaccinated as soon as possible!

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VACCINE FACTS

THE COVID-19 VACCINE DOES NOT HARM FERTILITY OR PREGNANCIES

Fact: VACCINES DO NOT AFFECT FERTILITY

There is no scientific evidence that the COVID-19 vaccines affect male or female fertility.

Fact: VACCINES ARE PREGNANCY SAFE

Meaningful studies have shown that the COVID-19 vaccines are safe for pregnant women.

Fact: THE COVID-19 VIRUS MAY IMPACT FERTILITY

Any infection that reaches a fetus, like the infection caused by the COVID-19 virus, can cause developmental issues, miscarriage, or stillbirth. It can also affect the fetus's health and development.

Myth: VACCINE HARMS FERTILITY AND PREGNANCIES

Protect your fertility or your unborn baby by getting vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus!

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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



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.

Highlighted Resources

- For individuals, families and caregivers
 - [Boggs Center COVID-19 Information and Resources](#)
 - [COVID-19 Materials for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Care Providers](#)
- 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](#)