The New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of Developmental Disabilities

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

February 18, 2021
Agenda

- COVID-19 Statistics
- March Webinars
- Day Program Re-Opening
- COVID-19 Testing
- COVID-19 Vaccine
- Transition from School to Adult Service System
- Resources
New Jersey COVID-19 Current Statistics*

*This update is as of Wednesday, February 17, 2021.

For regular updates: [https://covid19.nj.gov/](https://covid19.nj.gov/)

Consider downloading COVID Alert NJ on your Apple or Android smartphone: [https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/app](https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/app)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State of New Jersey</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>673,108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>20,343</td>
</tr>
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</table>
**DDD Specific COVID-19 Statistics***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Community Licensed</th>
<th>Community Own Home</th>
<th>Developmental Centers</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>1,728</td>
<td>467</td>
<td>669</td>
<td>2,864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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](https://www.state.nj.us/human/services/covid-19/).
• March Update webinars:
  ○ Thursday March 4, 2021 – 10:30 am
  ○ Thursday March 18, 2021 – 10:30 am

• Use link below to register:
  ○ Register Now for March 4 Webinar
  ○ Register Now for March 18 Webinar
Day Program Re-Opening

- 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

- 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

- 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.
COVID-19 Vaccine

- 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](https://www.njdoh.gov/) webpage.
- DDD will continue to provide updates as we receive them.
COVID-19 Vaccine

- 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.
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
Transition From School to Adult Service System

- School system to adult service system.
  - One stop to Multiple entities.
  - Entitlement to Eligibility.
- Preparation while still in school.
  - Opportunity to try different things in safe setting.
  - Identify areas in need of skill development, growth, exploration/discovery.
  - Time to research services, providers, resources.
Eligibility Process

- Can begin at age 18 (services not available until 21).
- Medicaid Eligibility – usually through SSI.
  - Email: DDD.MediEligHelpdesk@dhs.nj.gov
  - Web page: Medicaid Eligibility and DDD
Eligibility Process

- **DDD Eligibility.**
  - Intake Unit within Community Services Office (eligibility application on website).
  - Full Application – required when applicant was **not** previously determined eligible for developmental disability services through DDD or DCF/CSOC-PerformCare.
  - Short Application – can be used when applicant was previously determined eligible for developmental disability services through DDD or DCF/CSOC-PerformCare.
  - NJ Comprehensive Assessment Tool (NJ CAT).
Tier/Budget Assignment

- Individualized budgets are assigned based on Tier.
  - Tiers (reflecting level of support need) are assigned based on result of NJ CAT.
    - Tiers are from A to E and can include an acuity differentiated factor for individuals with high/specialized clinical support needs based on medical/behavioral concerns.
- Budget components fund waiver services.
- Additional Supported Employment funding available if needed.
Support Coordination Agency Assignment

- Support Coordination Agency (SCA) Assignment – April of graduating year.
  - Complete and submit Support Coordination Agency Selection Form (January/February of graduating year).

- Support Coordination Agencies.
  - Care management through Medicaid/DDD approved providers.
  - Link to services and providers through person-centered planning process.
  - Develop Individualized Service Plan (ISP).
  - Conduct Monthly Monitoring – monthly call, quarterly face-to-face, annual in-home (in-person monitoring is currently suspended due to COVID-19).

- SCA can be selected, auto-assigned, changed.
When do DDD services become available?

- Services previously accessed through Children’s System of Care (CSOC)-PerformCare.
  - Available upon 21st birthday.
  - Respite, Behavioral Supports.
  - Individual/guardian needs to contact Intake Unit in the Community Services Office for their county about 2 months prior to 21st birthday.
    - SCA assignment can occur up to 60 days prior to 21st birthday.
    - ISP development, to continue services after age 21 that were previously accessed through CSOC-PerformCare.
When do DDD services become available?

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- **Majority of Services.**
  - Available when educational entitlement has been exhausted (21st year).
  - Employment and Day Services.
  - Residential Services (if enrolled on CCP).
- **Facility-based, congregate day services are not currently available (due to public health emergency).**
  - Modified day services can be provided in person 1:1.
  - Remote services/supports are temporarily available depending on the provider.
  - Self-Directed Employees can still be used (Community Based / Individual Supports, for example).
Planning and Research Prior to Accessing Services

- Learn about the adult service system and how to access services, supports, resources.
- **Planning for Adult Life** is a resource funded by the Division.
- Offers online lessons, presentations, etc. to prepare for transition to adult services.
Planning & Research Prior to Accessing Services

- Identify services/supports that will be needed after exiting the school system
  - RECIPES
    - Relationships;
    - Employment;
    - Chores;
    - Individual Health & Wellbeing;
    - Place to Live;
    - Education;
    - Social Life.
Research providers to determine which ones meet individual needs
- Provider Search Database
- The Boggs Center’s Guides to Selecting and Working with Service Providers
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Waiver Program Services</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Assistive Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Behavioral Supports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Career Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cognitive Rehabilitation (SP only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Community Based Supports (SP only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Community Inclusion Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Community Transition Services (CCP only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Day Habilitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Environmental Modifications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Goods &amp; Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Individual Supports (CCP only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Interpreter Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Natural Supports Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Occupational Therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Physical Therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Prevocational Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Respite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Speech, Language, and Hearing Therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Supported Employment</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Supports Brokerage</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Vehicle Modifications</td>
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Employment and Transition to 21 Unit

- Provides presentations on various topics that include:
  - Overview of the Division of Developmental Disabilities.
  - RECIPES for Success.
  - Peer presentations for students, self-advocates, etc.

- Available to answer questions on:
  - Transitioning out of the school system.
  - Employment for people with I/DD.

- DDD.TransitionHelpdesk@dhs.nj.gov
Important Resources

- 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

- **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.
  - 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

- 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