

The New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of Developmental Disabilities

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

February 18, 2021



Agenda

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- 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*

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State of New Jersey	
Positive	673,108
Deaths	20,343

**This update is as of Wednesday, February 17, 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	1,728	467	669	2,864
Deaths	98	43	51	192

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](#).

DDD March Webinar Schedule

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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.
 - Visit [covid19.nj.gov](https://www.covid19.nj.gov) for information on the State's COVID-19 response.
 - View a COVID-19 Vaccination Essentials webinar co-hosted by the New Jersey Department of Health, Rutgers, and the Nicholson Foundation:
https://rwjms.rutgers.edu/community_health/other/project-echo/covid-19.

COVID-19 Vaccine

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- 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](#) webpage.
- DDD will continue to provide updates as we receive them.

COVID-19 Vaccine

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- 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

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New Jersey's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service
New Jersey's Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Program

COVID-19 VACCINE FACTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COMMUNITY

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a virus that spreads easily and can make people very sick. People with developmental disabilities play an important role in preventing the spread of COVID-19. Friends, family, and supporters play an important role in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

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GETTING A COVID-19 VACCINE: A SOCIAL STORY FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a virus that spreads easily and can make people very sick. The COVID-19 vaccine is a medicine that prevents you from getting COVID-19. Like most vaccines, the COVID-19 vaccine is given by shots using a needle. This social story can help you understand why it's important to get a COVID-19 vaccine and what you can expect.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are different versions of the vaccine. Most require 2 shots given 3 to 4 weeks apart.

I want to protect myself and people around me from getting sick from COVID-19.

I will get a COVID-19 vaccine so I don't get very sick from COVID-19.

Transition From School to Adult Service System

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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?

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- 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.
 - ✦ Individual/Family Support 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

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- 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

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- Identify services/supports that will be needed after exiting the school system
 - **RECIPES**
 - ✦ **R**elationships;
 - ✦ **E**mployment;
 - ✦ **C**hores;
 - ✦ **I**ndividual Health & Wellbeing;
 - ✦ **P**lace to Live;
 - ✦ **E**ducation;
 - ✦ **S**ocial Life.

Planning & Research Prior to Accessing Services

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- Research providers to determine which ones meet individual needs
 - Provider Search Database
 - The Boggs Center's Guides to Selecting and Working with Service Providers

Waiver Program Services

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- Assistive Technology
- Behavioral Supports
- Career Planning
- Cognitive Rehabilitation (SP only)
- Community Based Supports (SP only)
- Community Inclusion Services
- Community Transition Services (CCP only)
- Day Habilitation
- Environmental Modifications
- Goods & Services
- Individual Supports (CCP only)
- Interpreter Services
- Natural Supports Training
- Occupational Therapy
- Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)
- Physical Therapy
- Prevocational Training
- Respite
- Speech, Language, and Hearing Therapy
- Supported Employment
- Supports Brokerage
- Transportation
- Vehicle Modifications

Employment and Transition to 21 Unit

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- 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

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- [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

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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](#)