The New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of Developmental Disabilities

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

March 4, 2021
Agenda

- COVID-19 Statistics
- March Webinar
- Visitation
- Day Program
- FY22 Proposed Budget
- Vaccination Groups Update
- Masks with Layers
- Resources
New Jersey COVID-19 Current Statistics*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State of New Jersey</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>707,099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>20,990</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This update is as of Wednesday, March 3, 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)
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>1,769</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>671</td>
<td>2,927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>202</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.
DDD March Webinar Schedule

• March Update webinar:
  ○ Thursday March 18, 2021 – 10:30 am

• Use link below to register:
  ○ Register Now for March 18 Webinar
The Division is working to update guidance on Group Home Visitation which will be released as soon as possible.

One change that will occur is that indoor visitation in residential settings will be permitted when:

- There have been no new positive COVID-19 cases of residents and staff assigned to the residence within the past 14 days;
- The residence is not in the process of performing expanded viral testing of all residents and staff due to a recent COVID-19 positive test or high risk exposure; and
- No residents or staff of the home are currently symptomatic.

This previous timeframe was 28 days.

Outdoor visitation, weather permitting, will occur when indoor visitation is not possible due to the above.
Day Program Re-Opening

- At this time, DDD-funded congregate day service settings remain closed.
  - 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 Congregate Day Program Re-Opening Requirements will be updated as appropriate and be in effect.
The Governor’s budget has prioritized initiatives at Human Services that support New Jerseyans in every stage of life, from birth through aging.

- Expanded funding for women’s healthcare.
- Ensure Medicaid coverage for one full year after delivering a baby.
- Ensure every child has healthcare.
- Increase funding for residential providers for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Make prescription drugs more affordable for seniors by expanding the pharmaceutical assistance for the Aged and Disabled Program.
How does this proposed budget impact DDD?

  - Governor Murphy’s Administration recognizes that a fair wage for DSPs must be higher than the minimum wage.
  - The budget proposal builds on previous increases with about $42 million in new funding to ensure DSPs, and their supervisors, are paid above the state’s increasing minimum wage.
  - This funding maintains prior rate increases and, as of January 1st, 2022 will add an additional $1.25 per hour for DSPs and their supervisors.
FY22 Proposed Budget

How does this proposed budget impact DDD?

- Residential Providers.
  - Residential providers that operate programs such as group homes have been required to provide additional daytime staffing hours during the public health emergency.
  - To support the required staffing level, the Department increased the residential daily rate by 20 percent.
  - While the state is working to achieve widespread vaccination and to safely reopen day programs again as soon as possible, the need for this funding will continue for some time.
  - Governor Murphy’s budget includes funding to maintain this enhanced residential staffing through December 2021.
Who is eligible for vaccination at this time?

- Paid and unpaid healthcare workers;
- Residents and workers of long-term care and high-risk congregate care facilities;
- First responders including sworn law enforcement and fire professionals;
- Individuals aged over 65;
- Individuals aged 16-64 that have certain medical conditions that increase the risk of severe illness from the virus.
COVID-19 Vaccine

Beginning March 15, 2021:

- Educators, including support staff, in pre-K through 12th grade settings;
- Childcare workers in licensed and registered settings;
- Public and local transportation workers, including bus, taxi, rideshare, and airport employees; NJ TRANSIT workers; and Motor Vehicle Commission staff;
- Public safety workers who are not sworn law enforcement or fire professionals, including probation officers and fire safety inspectors;
- Migrant farm workers;
- Members of tribal communities;
- Individuals experiencing homelessness and those living in shelters, including domestic violence shelters.
COVID-19 Vaccine

- Beginning March 29th, frontline essential workers in the following categories:
  - Food production, agriculture, and food distribution;
  - Eldercare and support;
  - Warehousing and logistics;
  - Social services support staff;
  - Elections personnel;
  - Hospitality;
  - Medical supply chain;
  - Postal and shipping services;
  - Clergy; and
  - Judicial system.
Masks with Layers

- The CDC has released recommendations on how to improve how your mask protects you.
  - The CDC recommends having two (2) or more layers of washable, breathable fabric, completely covering nose and mouth, fitting snugly against the side of your face without gaps, with a nose wire to prevent air from leaking out of the top of the mask.
  - For more information, please visit: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/effective-masks.html
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