

The New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of Developmental Disabilities

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

April 1, 2021



Agenda

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- COVID-19 Statistics
- April Webinars
- NCI Surveys
- New PPL E-Invoicing Portal for Vendors
- Residential Funding
- Vaccine Eligibility
- Residential Moves Guidance
- Developmental Center Updates
- Resources

New Jersey COVID-19 Current Statistics*

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State of New Jersey	
Positive	799,391
Deaths	21,993

**This update is as of Wednesday, March 31, 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	1,805	539	667	3,011
Deaths	113	51	56	220

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 April Webinar Schedule

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- April Update webinar:
 - Thursday April 15, 2021 – 10:30 am
 - Thursday April 29, 2021 – 10:30 am
- Use links below to register:
 - [Register for April 15 Webinar](#)
 - [Register for April 29 Webinar](#)

National Core Indicators (NCI) Surveys

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- National Core Indicators (NCI) is a collaborative effort between the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) and the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI).

NCI Surveys

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- In 2021, New Jersey is conducting the following NCI surveys:
 - In-Person Survey.
 - Adult Family Survey.
 - Family/Guardian Survey.
- NCI surveys cover key areas such as employment, respect/rights, service planning, community inclusion, choice, and health and safety.
- In 2021, all NCI surveys include a COVID-19 supplement.

NCI Surveys

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- **In-Person Survey (IPS)** – voluntary, face-to-face conversation completed with individuals who are 21 years of age or older and receiving at least one other service from DDD in addition to support coordination.
 - Administered by DDD staff who have received specialized training – conducted virtually, due to COVID-19.
 - To participate, the person will need access to a personal computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone that has video conferencing capabilities.
 - Calls to individuals to request participation in the virtual IPS began January 2021.

NCI Surveys

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- **Adult Family Survey** – voluntary online survey completed by family members who have an adult (21 years or older) with an intellectual/developmental disability who lives in the family home and receives at least one additional DDD service other than support coordination.
- **Family/Guardian Survey** – voluntary online survey completed by family members/guardian who have an adult (21 years or older) with an intellectual/developmental disability who lives outside of the family home and receives at least one additional DDD service other than support coordination.

NCI Surveys

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- Calls to individuals to request participation in the virtual In-Person Survey began January 2021.
- Invitations to participate in the Adult Family Survey and Family/Guardian Survey will be sent in Spring 2021.
 - Will include a unique web-link to complete the survey.
- Surveys must be completed by June 30, 2021.
- Questions about the surveys or requests to obtain a hard copy of the survey can be sent to DDD.NCI@dhs.nj.gov.

PPL E-Invoicing for Vendors

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- For community vendors who submit invoices to and are paid through PPL, there is a new E-Invoice system available.
 - Allows vendors to submit invoices electronically, including importing invoices in bulk files.
 - Sends an email automatically to employer of record, individual, or authorized representative to electronically approve.
 - Beginning April 2, 2021, PPL vendors who use PPL's e-Invoice system will be paid weekly.
 - Vendors can register on PPL's [DDD E-Invoice Portal](#).

Residential Funding

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- As previously announced, the temporary \$3-per-hour wage increase for direct support professionals working in residential settings claiming Individual Supports – Daily Rate ended on March 31, 2021.
 - Dates of service that fall in the time period that the \$3-per-hour increase was in effect will be paid at the enhanced rate for that time period. Providers are reminded to submit claims in a timely fashion.
- The 20% increase to Individual Supports – Daily Rate has been approved through June 30, 2021.
- The updated temporarily enhanced Individual Supports-Daily rates are posted on the DHS Public Notices webpage.

Vaccine Eligibility

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- Beginning March 29th, frontline essential workers in the following categories were added:
 - Food production, agriculture, and food distribution;
 - Eldercare and support;
 - Warehousing and logistics;
 - Social services support staff – **this Includes Support Coordinators**;
 - Elections personnel;
 - Hospitality;
 - Medical supply chain;
 - Postal and shipping services;
 - Clergy; and Judicial system.

Vaccine Eligibility

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- Governor Murphy announced that beginning Monday, April 5, **Individuals ages 16 and up with intellectual and developmental disabilities** are eligible for vaccination.
- The Department and Division encourage all persons eligible for vaccination to participate.

Vaccine Eligibility

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- New Federal Pilot Community Vaccination Center in Newark.
 - Established in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
 - Located at the Naimoli Family Athletic and Recreational Center at the New Jersey Institute of Technology.
 - Capacity to vaccinate 6,000 individuals per day, seven days per week.
 - Eligible individuals can call 855-568-0545 or visit [NJ COVID-19 Vaccine](#) for information or to schedule an appointment.

Residential Moves Guidance

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- Guidance on Residential Moves has been updated.
- Changes are as follows:
 - The individual moving or any residents or staff in the proposed home must not have tested positive for COVID-19 and/or have displayed signs or symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 10 days.
 - Timeframe was previously 14 days.

Residential Moves Guidance

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- Changes Continued:
 - If an unvaccinated individual is moving, the provider must have documentation that a COVID-19 test was administered no more than 10 days prior to admission **and** be in receipt of a negative result from the lab administering that test before the individual moves in. The provider shall retain a copy of the negative result from the administering lab.
 - This would not be applicable if the individual moving into the home was positive for COVID-19 in the last three months, considered recovered from the virus by their healthcare professional and asymptomatic of current infection. Documentation is required.

Residential Moves Guidance

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- **Changes Continued:**
 - Fully vaccinated individuals who are asymptomatic for COVID-19 infection do not require a test before move so long as they or their caretaker do not report exposure (15 or more cumulative minutes within 24-hours) to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. A copy of the vaccination card shall be retained by the provider as documentation of this and available upon request.
 - Should an exposure be reported, COVID-19 testing consistent with an unvaccinated person shall be required, regardless of previous infection.

Developmental Center Updates

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- The Division has updated the COVID-19 Response Plan governing Developmental Centers.
- The centers have adapted protocols throughout the pandemic including:
 - Updating of COVID-19 symptoms in center screening policies as they are released by the CDC;
 - Setting up sufficient isolation space in the event of an outbreak;
 - The provision of regular COVID-19 testing for residents and staff; and
 - COVID-19 vaccination being offered to all residents and staff.

Developmental Center Updates

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- To date, only outdoor visitation has been available.
- While outdoor visitation is still the preferred method of visitation due to increased airflow and physical space, **we are pleased to now allow indoor and outdoor visitation under certain parameters.**
- Indoor visits can occur after receiving the required consent from the resident's guardian.
- Visitor(s) are required to undergo screening, COVID-19 testing, and sign a Visitor's Agreement at time of visit for any visit to take place.

Developmental Center Updates

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- Regardless of vaccination status, visitation is permitted **except** in the following circumstances:
 - The resident has confirmed COVID-19 infection and has not met the criteria to discontinue transmission-based precautions;
 - The resident has confirmed exposure to someone with COVID-19 infection and not met criteria for release from isolation;
 - The resident's living area has experienced at least one new resident or staff COVID-19 infection. In this instance, visitation for residents in that area shall be suspended until outbreak testing of all residents and staff in that living area has concluded yielding no new positive cases and 14 days have passed since the last positive case.

Developmental Center Updates

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- Fully vaccinated* residents can choose to have close contact (including touch) with their visitor(s) as long as the visitor is wearing, at a minimum, a well-fitted surgical mask provided by the center and any other required PPE.
- Due to CDC guidance recommending masks with layers, visitors are asked to bring their own cloth mask to wear overtop the surgical mask.

*Fully vaccinated refers to a person who is more than or at 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2 dose series, or more than or at 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine.

Developmental Center Updates

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- Any type of visit needs to be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance and comport with the center's regular visitation schedule.
- Visits will occur in a designated location and be socially distanced between persons at all times.
- The number of visitors a resident can receive at any one time shall be limited to two.
- The number of visits that can be accommodated each day by the center may be limited to ensure no overcrowding, sanitation of the visiting area between visits, and all residents have the opportunity to visit.

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](#)