

The New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of Developmental Disabilities

1

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

April 16, 2020



THANK YOU!

2

A special **THANK YOU** to our
HEROES in this trying time!

- Direct Support Professionals-
- Self-Directed Employees-
- Individuals/Families-
- Providers-



Emotional Support During COVID-19 Outbreak
Get Help Now: 866-202-HELP (4357)

E-mail: help@njmentalhealthcares.org

NJ Mental Health Cares

If you're concerned about your mental health or the mental health of someone you love, **NJ Mental Health Cares** can help. The **free helpline** offers telephone counseling, emotional support, information and assistance.

866-202-HELP (4357)

7 days per week, 8am - 8pm

New  Jersey
MentalHealthCares
New Jersey's Behavioral Health and Referral Service



Today's Webinar Will Provide Information on...

4

- ✦ State and DDD-Specific COVID-19 Statistics
- ✦ Personal Protective Equipment
- ✦ Provider Preparation
- ✦ Temporary Service Modifications
- ✦ Supporting Day and Residential Providers
- ✦ Hiring a New Employee During COVID-19
- ✦ 2020 Graduates – Accessing Services
- ✦ NJ DOH EMS Rule Modification
- ✦ Incident Reporting
- ✦ Resources



New Jersey COVID-19 Current Statistics*

5

State of New Jersey	
Positive	71,030
Negative	72,991
Deaths	3,156

**This update is as of 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 15, 2020.*

For regular updates: <https://covid19.nj.gov/>

DDD Specific COVID-19 Statistics*

6

	Community	Developmental Centers	Total
Positive	117	52	169
Negative	56	18	74
Deaths	23	3	26

**DDD specific statistics are updated every Monday. Information is based on incident reporting data entered at time of publication.*

<https://nj.gov/humanservices/coronavirus.html>



Personal Protective Equipment

7

- If you have not already, place orders with vendors for PPE.
- Network with providers about suppliers who may have PPE.
- Contact local Office of Emergency Management to relay what your PPE needs are:

[ready.nj.gov/about-us/county-coordinators.shtml](https://www.ready.nj.gov/about-us/county-coordinators.shtml)

Personal Protective Equipment

8

- DHS/DDD is receiving a modest shipment of PPE.
- If additional PPE allocations are received, we will continue to make supplies available to the community.
- DDD is reaching out to residential providers to provide a portion of PPE based on number of residents served.
- DDD is also working to identify families who utilize SDEs that do not reside in the household.
 - Provision of PPE will be based on the impact COVID-19 is having in the county of residence.

Personal Protective Equipment

9

- Universal Masking and Cohorting of Staff
 - DDD has released guidance directing that all staff working with individuals under services must wear facemasks.
nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/covid19-universal-masking-policy.pdf
 - The type of facemask used will depend on the care being delivered and type of mask available.

Personal Protective Equipment

10

- **Universal Masking and Cohorting of Staff**
 - In order to help prevent infection from entering a home or spreading, staff should wear surgical masks or cloth masks if surgical are unavailable.
 - In order to protect themselves, staff supporting individuals who are positive or presumed positive for COVID-19 should wear N95s.
 - Information about cloth masks and optimizing PPE is found in the detailed guidance.

Personal Protective Equipment

11

- **Universal Masking and Cohorting of Staff**
 - To reduce the spread of COVID-19, staff working with individuals who are COVID-positive should cohort.
 - This means they should only work with sick or exposed individuals and they should not move back and forth between sick and healthy individuals or settings.

Temporary Service Modifications

12

- Effective April 9 and until further notice from the Division, some services can be provided remotely:
nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/covid19-temporary-service-modifications.pdf
- The Temporary Service Modifications guidance has been revised to clarify that:
 - ✦ The Division has not placed any restrictions on one-to-one in-home supports.
 - ✦ Remote delivery of services is available as an *option*.



Temporary Service Modifications

13

Services that can Temporarily be Provided Remotely

Behavioral Supports	Natural Supports Training
Career Planning	Occupational Therapy
Cognitive Rehabilitation	Physical Therapy
Community Based Supports	Prevocational Training (Individual & Group)
Community Inclusion	Speech Therapy
Day Habilitation	Support Coordination
Goods and Services (Classes)	Supported Employment (Individual)
Individual Supports (Hourly)	Support Brokerage
Interpreter Services	

Supporting Day and Residential Providers

14

- **Financial Support – Day Services**

- ✦ Day providers receiving 75% funding from the Division due to facility closures will continue to receive that payment through **April 28, 2020**.
- ✦ Day providers receiving this funding should not submit claims to DXC for any services being provided now to individuals they had been serving before the closures.
- ✦ If services are provided they must be documented. Documentation requirements are flexible but must meet minimal Medicaid guidelines.

Updated Guidance

nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/covid19-temporary-provider-funding.pdf



Supporting Day and Residential Providers

15

- **Financial Support – Residential Services**
 - ✦ Residential providers will continue to receive the 20% payment from the Division to cover increased daytime staffing needs due to facility closures through **April 28, 2020**.
 - ✦ Services must be documented. Documentation requirements are flexible but must meet minimal Medicaid guidelines.

Updated Guidance

nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/covid19-temporary-provider-funding.pdf



Hiring a New Employee During COVID-19

16

- Two new PPL self-directed employee (SDE) enrollment/on-boarding documents that provide step-by-step instructions for enrollment during COVID-19 emergency are available:
 - nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/covid19-hiring-first-ppl-employee.pdf
 - nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/covid19-hiring-new-ppl-employee.pdf
- Temporary Pre-Employment Screenings guidance:
 - nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/covid19-pre-employment-screenings.pdf



Hiring a New Employee During COVID-19

17

- For employee on-boarding to move forward—including on-boarding of parent, guardian or spouse—the agency or fiscal intermediary must receive either:
 - (a) Temporary emergency clearance from DHS Employee Compliance and Controls Unit (ECCU); **OR**
 - (b) Background check results based on fingerprinting done now.
- There is no 120-day grace period for fingerprinting and background check – *even if temporary clearance from DHS is received, fingerprinting must still be scheduled as soon as possible.*
- DDD is seeking flexibilities from CMS around fingerprinting and background check and will communicate any updates.

2020 Graduates – Accessing Services

18

- Students eligible for DDD services and exiting the school system will follow the same timeline as in previous years:
[nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/graduates-timeline.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/graduates-timeline.pdf)
- DDD assignment of eligible individuals to Support Coordination (SC) Agencies is proceeding as usual. If not already done, 2020 graduates determined eligible for DDD services should submit SC Agency Selection Form, available here:

[nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/services/support_coordination.html](https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/services/support_coordination.html)



2020 Graduates – Accessing Services

19

- If exit IEP or other transition-related meetings are conducted remotely, SC can participate for individuals assigned to them – and SC Agencies can be reimbursed for remote participation.
- SCs can conduct service planning and other meetings related to ISP development via secure videoconferencing or telephone.
- Services can be delivered, per current COVID-19 parameters, after the date of graduation and once the ISP has been approved.

NJ DOH Temporary Rule Modification – Emergency Medical Services

20

- On April 1, NJ Department of Health (DOH) issued temporary modifications to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) rules for use in cases where COVID-19 recovery can occur at home because an individual has mild, non-critical symptoms.
- Temporarily allows EMTs to *triage at home* when certain criteria are met.
- Using COVID-19 Triage Protocol, EMTs assess whether criteria for triage at home are met.
- If criteria are met, individual is not transported to hospital and EMTs provide home care instructions.

NJ DOH Temporary Rule Modification – Guidelines for Residential Providers

21

Important Information Concerning this Rule Modification

- EMTs will ask questions of individual/staff to complete the triage protocol – information should be provided.
- For individuals triaged at home, EMTs will provide printed home care instructions - staff should review and follow these. Further consult with individual's primary physician as needed.
- Develop strategies to comply with home instructions, including quarantining and strategies to keep all residents safe. Discuss these with your Office of Licensing supervisor.
- Ensure staff understand that COVID-19 symptoms can be mild or moderate, but can suddenly become severe.

NJ DOH Temporary Rule Modification – Guidelines for Residential Providers

22

- For individuals at home it is important for staff to continuously monitor for signs of worsening condition.
- This includes trouble breathing, a new fever or higher fever, or a fever that continues more than 48 hours despite fever-reducing medications, severe headache/neck stiffness with fever, sensitivity to light, sleepiness, or confusion.
- Make sure staff review and understand Danielle’s Law, including definition of a life-threatening emergency.
- Additional DHS guidance/details on the EMT rule modification forthcoming.

NJ DOH Temporary Rule Modification – Guidelines for Residential Providers

23

- Rule modification does **not** impact the use of 911 in life-threatening emergencies.
 - Staff must continue to call 911 when an individual is experiencing any life-threatening emergency.
 - Staff must continue to call 911 if an individual's condition appears to be worsening – even if 911 was previously called.

Incident Reporting

24

- Report any of the following as a Medical event (communicable disease):
 - An individual receiving DHS services has symptoms of, is undergoing testing for, or is confirmed positive for COVID-19.
 - The family member of an individual receiving DHS services was in contact with the individual in the past 14 days, and the family member is confirmed positive for COVID-19.
 - An agency employee was in direct contact with an individual receiving DHS services in the past 14 days, and the employee is confirmed positive for COVID-19.

Incident Reporting

25

- Report any of the following as a Medical event (communicable disease) Continued:
 - The family member of an agency employee was in contact with the employee in the past 14 days, and the employee's family member is confirmed positive for COVID-19.
- For all reportable incidents, agencies are required to ensure all identified guardians are notified.

nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/covid19-incident-reporting.pdf

Important Resources

26

- NJ Department of Health:
nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml
24-Hour Hotline: 1-800-222-1222
- NJ Department of Human Services COVID-19 Information:
nj.gov/humanservices/coronavirus.html
- Contact Information for local health departments in NJ:
localhealth.nj.gov
- Contact Information for local health departments in NJ:
ready.nj.gov/about-us/county-coordinators.shtml



Important Resources

27

- U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention:
 - ✦ [cdc.gov/COVID19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)
 - ✦ [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html)
 - ✦ [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/index.html)
 - ✦ [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html)
 - ✦ [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html)

Important Resources

28

- For assistance during this time:
 - For vital 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-19 related questions:
DDD.COVID-19@dhs.nj.gov
 - To report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation: call 1.800.832.9173, then press 1.



Important Resources

Division Community Services Offices

PATERSON OFFICE: Bergen, Hudson, Passaic	973.977.4004
FLANDERS OFFICE: Morris, Sussex, Warren	973.927.2600
NEWARK OFFICE: Essex	973.693.5080
PLAINFIELD OFFICE: Union, Somerset	908.226.7800

TRENTON OFFICE: Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex	800.832.9173
FREEHOLD OFFICE: Ocean, Monmouth	732.863.4500
VOORHEES OFFICE: Burlington, Camden, Gloucester	856.770.5900
MAYS LANDING OFFICE: Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Salem	609.476.5200

Highlighted Resources

30

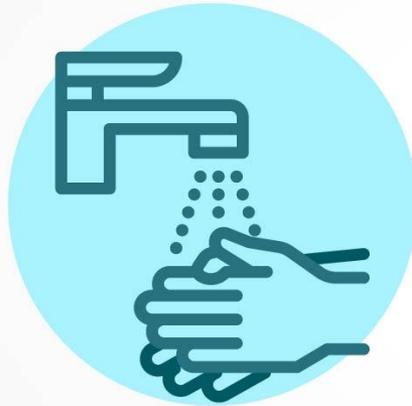
- For parents and families
 - Mom-2-Mom Helpline: (877) 914-6662
mom2mom.us.com/
- For individuals and caregivers
 - Waisman Center COVID-19 Resources for People with Disabilities
waisman.wisc.edu/covid-19/disabilities/
- For Direct Support Professionals
 - National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) COVID-19 Toolkit for DSPs:
nadsp.org/covid-19resources/

And Remember...

31

FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS TO **STAY HEALTHY**

**WASH YOUR
HANDS**



**COVER YOUR
COUGH**



**STAY HOME
WHEN SICK**



#PREVENTCORONAVIRUS