

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 29, 2021



Agenda

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- COVID-19 Statistics
- May Webinars
- Division-funded Congregate Day Services
- COVID-19 Vaccine Scheduling Resource
- Reminder about Staff/SDE On-Boarding Requirements
- Resources

New Jersey COVID-19 Current Statistics*

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State of New Jersey	
Positive	867,574
Deaths	22,849

**This update is as of Wednesday, April 28, 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	1,839	599	663	3,101
Deaths	113	55	41	209

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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- May Update webinars:
 - Thursday May 13, 2021 – 10:30 am
 - Thursday May 27, 2021 – 10:30 am
- Use links below to register:
 - [Register Now for May 13 Update Webinar](#)
 - [Register Now for May 27 Update Webinar](#)

Day Program Re-Opening

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- The Department of Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities released day program re-opening requirements on March 15, 2021.
- The Division understood that some participants and families were eager for more programs to re-open.
- In response to such feedback, and in consultation with the Department of Health, updated Congregate Day Program Re-Opening Requirements were issued on April 22, 2021.
- The newly updated requirements allow **all** congregate day programs to re-open at limited capacity, regardless of the current CALI designation.

Day Program Re-Opening

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- Day programs are congregate facilities serving individuals with varying levels of risk for developing complications following the contraction of COVID-19.
- An individual's risk of contracting and transmitting COVID-19 is higher if they have not been vaccinated, if the individual is not able to adhere to social distancing and masking guidelines, and when COVID-19 activity is higher in their region.

Day Program Re-Opening

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- Day program capacity is governed by:
 - The most recent New Jersey Department of Health [COVID-19 Activity Level Index \(CALI\)](#).
 - All criteria in [Congregate Day Program Re-Opening Requirements](#) being met.
- Capacity
 - 25% in Very High (Red) - Previously not permitted to operate;
 - 50% in High (Orange) - Previously not permitted to operate;
 - 50% in Moderate (Yellow); and
 - Full (100%) capacity in Low (Green) – Previously permitted to operate at 50% capacity.

Day Program Re-Opening

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- COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI).
 - If CALI designation changes to one that will result in **reduced** capacity the provider has 14 days to move to the lower capacity.
 - Should the CALI designation return to one that does not require a change in capacity during that period then **no** reduction in capacity is required.
 - In this circumstance and during that time, the provider must notify participants and families/guardians when the designation changes, the date of the projected reduction in capacity and if the CALI changes to a designation that will not require a reduction in capacity.

Day Program Re-Opening

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- COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI).
 - If the CALI designation for a region changes to allow for **increased** capacity, for example a move from Moderate to Low or Very High to High, the provider may elect to increase participation up to the corresponding maximum capacity, with notification to participants and families/guardians, as soon as they are able to do so.

Day Program Re-Opening

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- It is the responsibility of each provider to monitor the CALI report weekly and take appropriate action based on these requirements.
- Provider action must be based on the CALI level for the region in which the day program operates – not the region where participants may reside.
- In the event a program chooses to close or further limit capacity, the provider must notify all those participating in the congregate day program and any participant's family/guardian, as soon as possible.

Day Program Re-Opening

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- Additionally, if a provider elects to not re-open, they shall communicate this information to participants and families/guardians as soon as possible so that they can thoughtfully plan for alternative services.
- Providers must also notify the Division of closures, capacity changes, or plans to remain closed concurrent with participant and family/guardian notifications. This can be done by emailing the Division's Provider Performance and Monitoring Unit at DDD.PPMU@dhs.nj.gov.



Day Program Re-Opening

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- Programs that are in compliance with these standards may re-open as early as they are able to come into compliance with these requirements.
- The Division estimates that providers will need at least two weeks to prepare to re-open but may open sooner if they are in compliance with the requirements in this document.
- Please note that some programs may elect not to re-open under certain circumstances or may delay re-opening.
- State Supplemental Day Payments will continue.

Day Program Re-Opening

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Requirements should be reviewed in their entirety

- Congregate Day Program Re-Opening Requirements

- Required Documentation:

- ✦ Individual Needs and Risk Assessment - This form did **not** receive updates in the April 2021 release. The March 2021 release remains the most current.
- ✦ Facility Readiness Tool - There are minor **updates** to in reference to capacity limits in the April 2021 release. If one has been completed previously then it must be reviewed and updated if necessary.

Day Program Re-Opening

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- Congregate Day Program Re-Opening Requirements
 - Required Documentation Continued:
 - ✦ A Congregate Day Re-Opening Attestation is needed – This form was **not** updated for the April 2021 release. The March 2021 release remains the most current.
 - ✦ Receipt of COVID-19 Information Form - This form was **not** updated for the April 2021 release. The March 2021 release remains the most current.

Day Program Re-Opening

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- Regardless of vaccination status or living arrangement, an individual who has been exposed (15 or more cumulative minutes within 24-hours with someone who has recently tested positive for COVID-19) cannot return to program for 14 days following the last day of that exposure.

Vaccine Scheduling Resource

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- The Division is pleased to share a community resource, Vaccine Matchmaker, a project of the nonprofit organization [WGIRLS INC.](#)
 - ✦ WGIRLS INC volunteers across New Jersey are assisting residents age 55 and older and **people of all ages with disabilities** find and schedule a COVID-19 vaccine appointment.
 - ✦ Vaccine Matchmaker volunteers only ask for basic information (name, DOB, email, phone and address). They will never charge a fee or ask for insurance information, Social Security numbers, or credit card numbers.
 - ✦ You can [sign up here](#) to request Vaccine Matchmaker assistance securing a vaccine appointment.

Reminder: Staff/SDE Onboarding Requirements

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- All agency staff and self-directed employees (SDEs) who began their employment based on temporary clearance from DHS ECCU are required to **complete all pending onboarding requirements by June 4, 2021**, including:
 - Criminal background checks via fingerprinting;
 - Pre-employment drug testing;
 - Child Abuse Record Information (CARI) checks.

Reminder: Staff/SDE Onboarding Requirements

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- SDEs, including family members, who received temporary emergency clearance from DHS ECCU to be hired *and who still need to complete onboarding requirements* should contact their Fiscal Intermediary (PPL or Easterseals) as soon as possible.
- The FI will be able to advise SDEs which of the onboarding requirements they are missing and provide instructions and email links for completing.
 - ✦ PPL Customer Service: 844-842-5891
 - ✦ Easterseals Customer Service: 800-471-3086

Upcoming Events

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- The Division of Developmental Disabilities Spring Webinar Series brought to you by CLEP (Community Living Education Project) will be held every Tuesday in May, from **12 Noon – 1:00 pm** and will be presented by DDD staff. You can register using the links below:
 - ✦ **May 4:** Overview of DDD Waiver Programs
 - ✦ **May 11:** Understanding Support Coordination and Making the Most of DDD Services
 - ✦ **May 18:** The DDD Housing Subsidy Program
 - ✦ **May 25:** Understanding Self-Directed Services in New Jersey and the Role of the Supports Broker

Upcoming Events

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**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

Promoting Safety, Access, and Inclusion for Every Survivor

ASL and Live CC
provided

Expert panel discussion on fostering healthy and inclusive communities for all survivors of interpersonal violence. Findings from the New Jersey Needs Assessment for Survivors of Interpersonal Violence with Disabilities will be shared.

**TUESDAY JUNE 15TH
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
ZOOM REGISTRATION TO COME!**

For more information or to request accommodations: training@ssw.rutgers.edu



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](#)