

The New Jersey Department of Human Services  
**Division of Developmental Disabilities**

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

July 15, 2021



# Agenda

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- COVID-19 Statistics
- August Webinar
- FY22 Budget
- PPL SDE Training Stipend
- Support Coordination Return to Field
- Resources

# New Jersey COVID-19 Current Statistics\*

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State of New Jersey	
Positive	895,855
Deaths	23,807

*\*This update is as of Wednesday, July 13, 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	1,890	645	664	3,199
Deaths	116	60	41	217

*\*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](#).*

# COVID-19 Update Webinar Schedule

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- Webinars have moved to monthly starting in July 2021.
- August Update webinar:
  - Thursday August 19, 2021 – 10:30 am
- [Register for August Webinar](#)

# FY22 Budget

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- Approximately 25M to increase Fee-For-Service (FFS) rates for:
  - Day Habilitation;
  - Career Planning;
  - Community Inclusion Services;
  - Pre-Vocational Training (Group); and
  - Supported Employment (Group).

# FY22 Budget

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- Funding to increase Supported Employment (Individual) to \$63 per hour.
- Effective January 1, 2022, a DSP Wage Increase identical to the one put in place January 1, 2021.
- Through December 31, 2021, funding to continue the 20% increase to Individual Supports Daily Rate.

# FY22 Budget

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- Notes on FY22 Budget

- At this time, State Supplemental Payments to day service providers continue.
- Day service capacity is being monitored to inform end date for this payment.
- While the 20% increase to Individual Supports Daily Rate is in the budget through December 31, 2021, that funding may end sooner when day service capacity reaches a level where the majority of individuals are attending.



# PPL SDE Training Stipend

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- DDD is pleased to announce implementation of the training stipend payments for self-directed employees (SDEs) in the Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent model administered by PPL.
- To receive the one-time SDE training stipend, a new Training Certification Form must be completed, signed by both the employer (current or former) and SDE, and submitted to PPL.
  - It is expected that the SDE will provide documentation of training completion to their employer, who should maintain copies of that documentation.

# PPL SDE Training Stipend

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## Training Payment Bundle 1

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and First Aid (CPR/FA) Certification

Danielle's Law

Stephen Komninos' Law

DDD Shifting Expectations: Changes in Perception, Life, Experience and Services

DDD Prevention of Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation

## Training Payment Bundle 2

Training Bundle 1 PLUS Medication Modules for SDEs administering medication:

- Medication Basics
- Working with Medications
- Administration of Medications and Treatment
- Follow-up, Communication and Documentation of Medications

# PPL SDE Training Stipend

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- For SDEs who certify their completion of **Training Bundle 1**, the 2021-2022 SDE stipend is **\$252.49**.
- For SDEs who certify their completion of referred to as **Training Bundle 2**, the 2021-2022 SDE stipend is **\$341.54**.
- Stipend payments are paid as part of an SDE's timesheet payment, according to the [PPL SDE Payment Schedule](#) submission and payment dates.
- The PPL stipend payments are funded by the state and are not deducted from the individual budget.

# PPL SDE Training Stipend

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## !! IMPORTANT !!

- Current SDEs have until **December 15, 2021** (six months from July 15) to complete all required trainings and submit the signed Training Certification Form.
- New SDEs (with a service start date on or after July 15) will have the standard six months after first date of service to complete all required trainings and submit the signed Training Certification Form.
- Employment and payment status may be suspended for an SDE who fails to complete the mandatory trainings within the specified timeframe.

# Support Coordination Return to Field

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- The requirement for in-person face-to-face visits by Support Coordinators has been suspended since March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Effective August 16, 2021, in-person face-to-face visits shall resume as outlined in [Support Coordinator Field Visits](#).
- Pre-pandemic, Support Coordinators were required to complete a monthly contact, quarterly in-person face-to-face visit and an annual in-person face-to-face home visit.

# Support Coordination Return to Field

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- For the period from August 16, 2021 through December 31, 2021:
  - Support Coordinators are directed to resume in-person face-to-face visits.
  - During this period, in-person face-to-face visits shall be *attempted* for as many assigned individuals as possible.
  - If an individual declines an in-person face-to-face visit the reason shall be documented in iRecord.

# Support Coordination Return to Field

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## **August 16 through December 31, 2021 SC Visits in Individual/Family Homes (non-provider-managed settings)**

If an in-person face-to-face visit is declined due to a household member being symptomatic of, positive/quarantining due to exposure for COVID-19 or a general COVID-19 concern, the visit may be conducted via phone/video call with the reason documented as a case note in iRecord.

A different date may be selected if all parties are agreeable.

The Support Coordinator shall convey that, barring a member of the household being symptomatic of or positive/quarantining due to exposure for COVID-19, quarterly and annual in-person face-to-face visits will be required to resume beginning January 1, 2022.

# Support Coordination Return to Field

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## **August 16 through December 31, 2021 SC Visits in Provider-Managed Settings such as Group Homes**

Provider managed settings are expected to comply with the in-person face-to-face visit requirement unless there is a resident of the home who is symptomatic of or positive/quarantining due to exposure for COVID-19.

In this instance, the visit shall be re-scheduled for at least 14 days later (unless less time is directed by a healthcare professional) or as appropriate based on the health of the resident(s).

## **SC Visits in Congregate Day Service Facilities (Day Program)**

Support Coordinators shall inquire with the day services provider about its voluntary ability to facilitate in-person face-to-face visits during this period.



# Support Coordination Return to Field

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- For the period beginning January 1, 2022:
  - Support Coordinators are directed to resume in-person face-to-face visits for **all** assigned individuals, scheduling as necessary to ensure this waiver requirement is met. 100% of individuals are expected to receive their in-person face-to-face visits in calendar year 2022.

# Support Coordination Return to Field

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## **Beginning January 1, 2022**

### **SC Visits in Individual/Family Homes OR Provider-Managed Settings such as Group Homes**

If a member of the household is symptomatic of or positive/quarantining due to exposure for COVID-19 an in-person face-to-face visit may not take place. In this instance, the reason shall be documented as a case note in iRecord and an in-person face to face visit shall be re-scheduled for at least 14 days later (unless less time is directed by a healthcare professional) or as appropriate based on the health of the resident(s).

### **SC Visits in Congregate Day Service Facilities (Day Program)**

Support Coordinators shall schedule in-person face-to-face meetings with the day services provider as occurred pre-pandemic.

# Support Coordination Return to Field

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- **Protocols for Visits (Regardless of Location)**
  - Support Coordinators must self-screen using the screening questions found in [Support Coordinator Field Visits](#) prior to all in-person visits and not participate if symptomatic of or positive for COVID-19.
  - In-person face-to-face visits must be scheduled in advance with the individual/family/provider and time on-site kept to a minimum.

# Support Coordination Return to Field

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- For visits in the individual/family home, Support Coordinators are encouraged to contact the household the day before the visit and ask the screening questions found in this document, rescheduling as appropriate. *Screening questions shall also be asked prior to entering the site on the day of the visit.* Household members can self-report responses to questions – Support Coordinators are **not** expected to take temperatures.
- For visits to provider managed settings, the provider will advise if a visit cannot occur due to COVID-19. It is recommended that the Support Coordinator call the day before the visit and reschedule as appropriate. Screening protocols in place by the provider shall be adhered to.

# Support Coordination Return to Field

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- A Support Coordinator should not complete an in-person face-to-face visit within 14 days of a member of a household being visited testing positive for COVID-19 or having symptoms of COVID-19 for which a healthcare professional has directed quarantine.
- Support Coordinators must wear a face covering and physically distance (6 feet apart from others) while conducting an in-person face-to-face visit. Other participants should be encouraged to wear a face covering and physically distance. The refusal or inability of an individual/family member to comply does not release the Support Coordination Agency from the responsibility to complete an in-person face-to-face visit.

# Support Coordination Return to Field

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- Support Coordinators shall monitor themselves for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 for at least 14 days after the visit. If symptoms occur, Support Coordinators should self-isolate at home and contact their healthcare provider for guidance on quarantine and testing. If positive for COVID-19, the Support Coordinator shall immediately notify the provider/family of the date they visited and complete an incident report.

# Support Coordination Return to Field

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- An individual/family/provider may inquire about the vaccination status of the Support Coordinator and the Support Coordinator may do the same. However, information is **not** required to be provided by any party.
- Out of respect for everyone's privacy, it is recommended that all parties approach every interaction assuming participants are not vaccinated and follow CDC recommendations around wearing face coverings and physical distancing from others.

# 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](mailto:DDD.FeeForService@dhs.nj.gov)
  - For COVID-related questions: [DDD.COVID-19@dhs.nj.gov](mailto: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](#)