

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 23, 2020



THANK YOU!

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

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



Emotional Support During COVID-19 Outbreak
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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
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Today's Webinar Will Provide Information on...

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- State and DDD-Specific COVID-19 Statistics
- August Webinar Schedule
- Waiting List Ranking Letters
- Visitation Policy Update
- Day and Residential Providers
- Resources



New Jersey COVID-19 Current Statistics*

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State of New Jersey	
Positive	177,645
Deaths	13,787

**This update is as of 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 22, 2020.*

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

DDD Specific COVID-19 Statistics*

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	Community		Developmental Centers	Total
	Licensed	Other		
Positive	638	280	416	1,334
Deaths	56	89	34	179

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

Community data includes settings such as group homes, supervised apartments, own home settings, nursing facilities, etc. Full detail available at <https://nj.gov/humanservices/coronavirus.html>.

August Webinar Schedule

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- August webinars will be held on:

- August 6, 2020 – 10:30am

- August 20, 2020 – 10:30am

- New registration required:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8090665461938805771>



Waiting List Ranking Letters

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- Annually, the Division mails out letters to individuals on the Community Care Program (CCP) Priority Waiting List providing them their ranking on that list.
- These letters will be sent out in the coming weeks.

Visitation Policy Update

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- On July 15, 2020, the NJ DOH released Executive Directive 20-2025 which allows for indoor visitation, under certain circumstances, for individuals with IDD in long term care settings.
- Today, the Division is releasing guidance adapting this directive for IDD group homes.



Visitation Policy Update

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- Universal requirements for visitation (Indoor or Outdoor).
 - Documentation:
 - ✦ Provider Attestation for Visitation.
 - ✦ Guardian Consent for Visitation.
 - ✦ Visitor Agreement.

Visitation Policy Update

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- All visits must be scheduled in advance.
- No more than two visitors at a time.
- The provider may place limits on duration, time of day and days of week when visits are to take place.
- All participants must adhere to Screening of Visitors and Staff in Residential Settings.

Visitation Policy Update

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- All participants who do not reside together must maintain social distancing. Exceptions for residents exist.
- All participants must wear face coverings. Exceptions for residents exist.
- Space where visit occurs must be cleaned between uses.

Visitation Policy Update

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- To the best of their knowledge, no one participating in the visit has had close contact (within six feet for 10 minutes) with someone who recently tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days .
- All participants must monitor themselves for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days and notify residence if they become symptomatic/test positive.

Visitation Policy Update

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- Items and/or food may be brought for the resident. Packaging to be disinfected before providing to the resident.
- It is recommended that food items be purchased in a sealed package from grocery store.
- Visits not supervised by provider staff may still be restricted by the provider – this includes day or overnight visits.

Visitation Policy Update

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- Effective July 26, visitation within a residence or other indoor space identified by the provider, are required to be provided under certain circumstances.
- An agency and each individual group home must meet and comply with all requirements in this guidance in order for visits to occur. All may not be ready on July 26.
- When not possible, outdoor visitation is required to be offered (weather permitting).

Visitation Policy Update

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- **Criteria for Indoor Visitation**

- There have been no residents or staff of the home who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 28 consecutive days or are currently displaying symptoms.
 - ✦ *If a new positive case is identified, indoor visitation shall be suspended until 28 days have passed.*

Visitation Policy Update

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- There must be adequate physical space in the residence to accommodate other residents and the required social distancing during the visit.
 - ✦ If these criteria are not met, an alternate indoor location may be identified by the provider or an outdoor visit shall be provided.

Visitation Policy Update

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- **Criteria for Outdoor Visitation**
 - Outdoor visits will continue to occur where visits within the residence or other indoor location are not possible or when otherwise practical.
 - There have been no residents or staff of the home who tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 consecutive days or are currently displaying symptoms.
 - ✦ *If a new positive case is identified, any visitation shall be suspended until 14 days have passed.*

Visitation Policy Update

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- Visits to take place in an outdoor area agreed upon by the provider with sufficient space and seating to allow individuals who have not been residing together to be at least six feet apart.
- Outside temperature, weather conditions, availability of restrooms and other facilities should be considered in planning.
- The residential provider shall provide transportation for the resident.

Visitation Policy Update

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- Guidance for Residential Providers on Visits with Family and Friends has been updated:
 - <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/covid19-residential-visitation-guidance.pdf>
- Screening of Visitors and Staff in Residential Settings has also been updated:
 - <https://nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/COVID19-residential-screening-policy.pdf>

Residential Providers

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- The temporary DSP wage increase of \$3 per hour will end on July 31, 2020.
- Residential agencies should plan accordingly related to wage adjustments.

Day Providers

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- **Day Services Retainer Payments**
 - Federally matched day service retainer payments that began March 17 ended effective July 17.
 - State Supplemental Payments began July 20.
 - In order for agencies to receive both payments, the Attestation discussed during the last webinar must be received by the Division.

Day Providers

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- Providers should have reviewed and submitted Attestation by 5pm on July 21:
 - ✦ Congregate Day Service Retainer Payments
 - <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/covid19-congregate-day-retainer-payments.pdf>
 - ✦ Attestation For Retainer Payments
 - <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/covid19-attestation-for-congregate-day-payments.pdf>

Day Providers

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- **Reminder**

- Claims for the five impacted services rendered on or before July 17 are **not** to be submitted as they were covered through retainer payments.
- The period of State supplemental payments begins July 20.
- Claims for the five impacted services rendered on or after July 20 **should** be submitted.

Day Providers

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- State Supplemental Payments for Day Providers - FAQs was released July 14
 - <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/covid19-supplemental-payment-frequently-asked-questions.pdf>

Important Resources

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- 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 County OEM Coordinators in NJ:
ready.nj.gov/about-us/county-coordinators.shtml

Important Resources

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- 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 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: rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter/links/COVID-19Resources.html
- For Direct Support Professionals
 - National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) COVID-19 Toolkit for DSPs: nadsp.org/covid-19resources/
 - CDC Guidance for Direct Service Providers: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/direct-service-providers.html