

The New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of Developmental Disabilities

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

August 6, 2020



THANK YOU!

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



Today's Webinar Will Provide Information on...

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- State and DDD-Specific COVID-19 Statistics
- Day and Residential Providers
- Temporary Service Modifications
- Visitation Policy Clarification
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Voting Resources for People with Disabilities
- NJ Census 2020
- Resources



New Jersey COVID-19 Current Statistics*

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State of New Jersey	
Positive	183,327
Deaths	13,989

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

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

DDD Specific COVID-19 Statistics*

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	Community		Developmental Centers	Total
	Licensed	Other		
Positive	659	286	418	1,363
Deaths	56	92	34	182

**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>.

Residential Providers

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- The temporary \$3-per-hour wage increase for Direct Support Professionals providing Individual Supports-Daily Rate ended on July 31, 2020.
- 20% increase will remain in place at least through August 31, 2020.

Temporary Service Modifications

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Updated Temporary Service Modifications guidance:

www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/covid19-temporary-service-modifications.pdf

Services that can Temporarily be Delivered Remotely

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

Temporary Service Modifications

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- Supported Employment-Group
 - Where appropriate, **in-person** SE-Group can temporarily be modified (reduction in number of participants, social distancing, outdoor setting, etc.), delivered, and claimed for.
 - SE-Group is not permitted to be delivered remotely.
 - ✦ Planning team can consider other employment related services that can be delivered remotely, such as Career Planning or Prevocational Training.

Temporary Service Modifications

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- For individuals living on their own or with family, day services can be delivered in-person, one-to-one in the home or in an alternative, socially-distanced setting, or can be delivered remotely:
 - Where appropriate, remote day services can temporarily overlap with Community Based Supports or Individual Supports-Hourly, *as long as the individual's need for one-to-one support in order to successfully participate in remote services is documented in a COVID note.*

Temporary Service Modifications

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- For individuals receiving Individual Supports-Daily Rate and/or living in a provider-managed residential setting (group home, supervised apartment):
 - Modified day services can only be delivered remotely. There is no in-person option.
 - Remote day services can overlap with IS-Daily Rate **only when** the provider staff delivering the remote day services are not the same staff who are delivering the IS-Daily Rate service.
 - ★ IS-Daily Rate and remote day services can be delivered by the same agency or by different agencies.

Temporary Service Modifications

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- Providers are expected to claim only for the actual number of modified day service units each individual is present for/receives/participates in.
 - Service plans should be revised to reflect the actual number of modified day service units the individual is expected to receive.
 - In cases where day services were prior authorized before program closures, modified day services may begin before the plan has been revised, but the plan should be revised as soon as possible thereafter.
 - Providers cannot claim for live or pre-recorded “streaming” of day services for individuals who are **not** present/participating.

Personal Protective Equipment

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- Experts are still predicting an increase in COVID-19 cases in the coming months.
- Stakeholders are urged to be proactive with ordering PPE ahead of such an event.
- This includes gloves, surgical masks, N95 masks, gowns, etc.

Visitation Policy Clarification

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- The Division appreciates everyone's cooperation with the updated Visitation Guidance.
- Agencies are required to submit the Attestation if they have not already. Failure to submit this and comply with the Visitation Guidance will result in negative action.
- Person's participating in visits are required to sign and abide by the Visitor Agreement. Failure to do so can impact future visits during the pandemic.

Visitation Policy Clarification

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- A resident's guardian must provide consent for indoor/outdoor visits. The guardians of other individuals cannot prevent a visit.
- Visits are to occur indoors at the group home so long as there is 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 Clarification

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- Families or friends may request to take their loved one on a day trip (recreational/medical) or overnight visit without residential staff.
- Residential provider needs to accommodate **but** may establish parameters for return/re-admission.
- Parameters are not dictated by the Division and have included not allowing immediate re-admission, COVID-19 testing, use of PPE on visit, etc.
- Before taking an individual for a day or overnight visit, the residential provider should be contacted to determine what their parameters are.

Voting Resources for People with Disabilities

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- General Election Day is November 3, 2020
 - [The Arc – Voting](#)
 - [REV UP: Register, Educate, Vote, Use your Power](#)
 - [Your Vote Counts: A Self-Advocate's Guide to Voting in the U.S.](#)
 - [New Jersey Election Center](#)
 - ✦ Check to see if you are registered to vote.
 - ✦ Register to vote, online.
 - ✦ Request to vote by mail.
 - ✦ Sign up for election reminders.

NJ Census 2020

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THERE'S STILL TIME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

FILL IT OUT NOW!



STRENGTH IN NUMBERS



**NJ CENSUS
2020**

CENSUS.NJ.GOV

- It's quick and easy.
- It's safe, secure, and confidential.
- Your response helps direct federal funds to state and local communities for schools, roads, and other public services.
- Results from the 2020 Census determine the number of seats each state has in Congress and your political representation at all levels of government.

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-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: 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