

The New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of Developmental Disabilities

1

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

August 19, 2021



Agenda

2

- COVID-19 Statistics
- September Webinar
- Masking Update
- Executive Order 252
- Reminder: SDE Training Requirements
- EVV Update for Provider Agencies
- Resources

New Jersey COVID-19 Current Statistics*

3

State of New Jersey	
Positive	930,076
Deaths	24,000

**This update is as of Wednesday, August 18, 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*

4

	Community		Developmental Centers	Total
	Licensed	Own Home		
Positive	1,923	666	693	3,282
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

5

- September Update webinar:
 - Thursday September 23, 2021 – 10:30 am
- [Register for September Webinar](#)

Masking Update

6

- On July 29, 2021, the Division updated the below policies to require the masking of staff, regardless of vaccination status.
 - [Congregate Day Re-Opening Requirements](#).
 - [Residential Visitation Guidance](#).
- Masking requirements for participants/residents remain the same: participant/resident masking shall occur so long as it is not medically/behaviorally contraindicated.
- Please review full guidance.

Executive Order 252

7

- On August 6, 2021, the Murphy Administration issued [Executive Order \(EO\) 252](#).
- This EO requires that staff working in targeted high-risk congregate settings be vaccinated by September 7, 2021 or submit to COVID-19 testing a minimum of once or twice per week.
- Settings include health care facilities, intermediate care facilities, opioid treatment programs, etc. as well as certain programs that serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Executive Order 252

8

- Impact to the Division.
 - Covered Division settings are:
 - ✦ Licensed Community Residences for Individuals with IDD;
 - ✦ Certified Day Programs for Individuals with IDD.
 - Covered Workers in these settings are:
 - ✦ Employees, both full-time and part-time, contractors, and other staff **working in the covered setting**, including those providing operational or custodial services or administrative support.

Executive Order 252

9

- Covered settings must:
 - Maintain a policy that requires covered workers to either provide adequate proof that they have been fully vaccinated or submit to testing at minimum one to two times weekly.
 - Upon effective date of September 7, 2021, any covered workers that have not provided adequate proof that they are fully vaccinated must submit to weekly or twice weekly testing on an ongoing basis until fully vaccinated.
 - Comport with all federal and state laws, including but not limited to the Americans with Disabilities Act, that regulate the collection and storage of vaccination information for covered workers.

Executive Order 252

10

- Covered settings must:
 - Have a policy for tracking test results from testing required by this Order and must report results to local public health departments if the lab processing results is not doing so.
- Please note:
 - A covered setting has the ability to institute a vaccination or testing policy for staff that includes additional or stricter requirements, so long as such policy comports with the minimum requirements of this Order.
 - A covered setting may also maintain a policy that requires more frequent testing of covered workers.

Executive Order 252

11

- Covered workers may demonstrate proof of full vaccination by presenting the following:
 - CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Card issued to the recipient by the vaccination site, or an electronic or physical copy of the same;
 - Official record from the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIIS) or other State immunization registry;
 - Record from a health care provider's portal/medical record system on letterhead signed by a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, RN or pharmacist;
 - Military immunization or health record from US Armed Forces;
 - Docket mobile phone application record or any state specific application that produces a digital health record.

Executive Order 252

12

- Unvaccinated covered workers:
 - Must undergo testing at minimum one to two times each week.
 - If testing is not provided by the covered setting, unvaccinated covered worker must submit proof of either an antigen or molecular test.
 - If testing is provided by the covered setting (this is not required), covered setting may similarly elect to administer or provide access to either an antigen or molecular test.
 - If covered worker is not working on-site during a week where testing would be required, testing is not required for that week.

Executive Order 252

13

- Common Questions

- Will funding be provided to covered settings to pay for testing?
 - ✦ No. Public testing sites that offer free COVID-19 testing can be used.
- What frequency of testing is required?
 - ✦ Testing once a week is required. Testing twice a week is strongly encouraged. Covered settings may require more frequent testing.
- Are contracted staff in covered settings (for example, custodial staff) required to be tested?
 - ✦ Yes. Any person working as an employee/volunteering in a covered setting is impacted. The covered setting can be more inclusive.

Executive Order 252

14

- If a covered worker is employed by multiple covered settings or employers, is additional testing needed?
 - ✦ No. The covered worker can obtain the result of their COVID-19 test and present it, as needed, to each employer each week.
- Does a covered setting need to reimburse a covered worker for the cost of testing (if paid for by the worker) or for a worker's time to get tested?
 - ✦ This is up to each covered setting to determine in policy, following applicable state and federal regulations.
- Can a covered setting require friends and family members visiting individual(s) served to be tested or vaccinated?
 - ✦ No. However, screening and PPE are still required.

Reminder about SDE Training Requirements

15

- Training requirements for self-directed employees, including CPR and First Aid certification (and re-certification every two years) and completion of College of Direct Support training modules, apply to any person hired as a self-directed employee, *including family members of the served individual*.
- In the Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent (VF/EA) self-direction program through PPL, training reimbursement was implemented effective July 15, 2021.

Reminder about SDE Training Requirements

16

- PPL SDEs hired before July 15, 2021 – *including family members of the individual served* – have until **December 15, 2021** (six months/180 days) to complete the training requirements and submit the new Training Certification Form to PPL.
- SDEs should provide the Employer of Record with documentation that training and CPR/FA was completed.
- SDE employment status and payments may be suspended if:
 - ✦ Training is not completed within the mandated timeframe, AND/OR
 - ✦ Training Certification Form is signed and submitted fraudulently (submitted without the training having been appropriately completed).

EVV for Provider Agencies

17

- EVV (Electronic Visit Verification) – a web-based system that verifies when provider visits occur and documents the precise time services begin and end – is required by federal law for certain services that are delivered partially or fully in the home.
- The EVV Provider Status Report, which identifies the compliance status of DDD provider agencies that are impacted by the EVV federal mandate, is updated weekly and posted on DDD's Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) for Providers webpage.
- The June 2021 DMAHS EVV Provider Newsletter defines provider status and identifies timelines for full compliance.

EVV for Provider Agencies

18

- **Provider EVV Compliance Status**

- ✦ **Operational** – Fully compliant with the federal EVV requirement, including billing.
- ✦ **Provisional Engaged** – Partially compliant with the federal EVV requirement: provider has completed the HHAeXchange on-boarding survey, has chosen an EVV solution, and continues to work toward billing.
- ✦ **Provisional Disengaged** – Not compliant with the federal EVV requirement: provider has not completed the HHAeXchange on-boarding survey, has not chosen an EVV solution, and has not taken any steps toward compliance.
- ✦ **Exempt** – All impacted services to all individuals served are provided strictly in the community, virtually, or by a live-in caregiver.
 - **DDD is conducting audits of all providers claiming exempt status.**

EVV for Provider Agencies

19

Provider EVV Compliance Process Flow

Disengaged Provider

- No evidence of EVV engagement on **July 1, 2021**
- No new cases assigned as of **August 1, 2021**
- Existing cases moved to operational providers as of **October 31, 2021**
- No claims paid after **October 31, 2021**

Engaged Provider

- Engaged with an EVV solution as of **July 1, 2021**
- Provider addressing integration and/or billing changes
- No new cases assigned as of **September 1, 2021**
- All cases moved to Operational Providers as of **October 31, 2021**
- Claims will not be paid after **October 31, 2021**

Operational Provider

- All visits are verified with EVV
- Provider is submitting claims to payer using EVV specific billing process
- **Effective October 31, 2021, all members will be served by an Operational Provider**

EVV for Provider Agencies

20

DDD Services Impacted by Federal EVV Mandate

DDD Service	Unit Increment	Service/ Procedure Code
Community Based Supports (Base)	15 minutes	H2021HI
Community Based Supports (Base w/Acuity)	15 minutes	H2021HI22
Community Based Supports (SDE)	15 minutes	H2021HI52
Individual Supports (Base)	15 minutes	H2016HI
Individual Supports (Base w/Acuity)	15 minutes	H2016HI22
Individual Supports (SDE)	15 minutes	H2016HIU8
In-Home Respite (Base)	15 minutes	T1005HI
In-Home Respite (SDE)	15 minutes	T1005HIU8

Important Resources

21

- 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

22

- 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

23

- 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](#)