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

September 3, 2020
THANK YOU!

~ Direct Support Professionals ~
~ Self-Directed Employees ~
~ Support Coordinators ~
~ Individuals/Families ~
~ Providers ~
Today’s Webinar Will Provide Information on...

- State and DDD-Specific COVID-19 Statistics
- FY21 Proposed Budget Overview
- Residential Providers
- Temporary Service Modifications
- Updates on Self-Directed Service Models
- Residential Moves
- Day Program Re-Opening Update
- Resources
New Jersey COVID-19 Current Statistics*

*This update is as of 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 2, 2020.

For regular updates: [https://covid19.nj.gov/](https://covid19.nj.gov/)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State of New Jersey</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>192,595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>14,181</td>
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# DDD Specific COVID-19 Statistics*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Developmental Centers</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Licensed</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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 [NJ Department of Human Services COVID-19 Information](https://www.nj.gov/dhs/).

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[State of New Jersey Department of Human Services]
FY21 Proposed Budget

- In a tremendously difficult budget year, we are proud that the Governor's proposed budget continues to recognize and support the Division's valuable services and workforce.
- The Department and Division wish to thank all of our stakeholders for their advocacy.
FY21 Proposed Budget: Highlights

- Direct Support Professional (DSP) wage increase originally proposed earlier this year remains intact.
  - Coincides with NJ minimum wage increase and ensures DSP starting salary will be above minimum wage.
  - Will go into effect January 1, 2021.
FY21 Proposed Budget Highlights

- One-time funding for another temporary $3-per-hour wage increase for DSPs providing Individual Supports-Daily Rate (provider-managed residential setting).
  - First temporary $3-per-hour wage increase was in effect May 1 – July 31.
  - New temporary $3-per-hour wage increase will go into effect for another three-month period, from October 1 through December 31, 2020.
Residential Providers

- Per the updated Temporary Residential Funding guidance, the 20% supplement to Individual Supports-Daily Rate has been extended through September 30.
Temporary Service Modifications

- Document has been updated to reflect:
  - Flexibility for Modified Day Habilitation services to temporarily take place outside of daytime hours and/or on weekends, as follows:
    - Remote-only for individuals living in a provider-managed residential setting.
    - Remote or one-to-one in the home or in an alternative socially distanced setting for individuals living in their own home or family home.
  - Day services delivered in a congregate day program facility, once those facilities re-open, can only be delivered during weekday daytime hours.
Temporary Service Modifications

- Document has been updated to reflect:
  - Clarification that self-directed employee wages *should* fall below or within the reasonable and customary threshold of $20 - $25 per hour.
    - Several factors impact the Division’s review of a requested SDE wage that exceeds this threshold (length of employment, annual salary increase requests, the scope of services to be delivered, supporting documentation, etc.).
  - Temporary Service Modifications
Updates on Self-Directed Service Models

- Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent model, with PPL as the fiscal intermediary:
  - PPL implementation of High Touch Support, with dedicated DDD Specialists who will provide direct, one-to-one support to individuals, families and support coordinators.
    - Improve on-boarding and enrollment for new participants.
    - Assist with payment issues.
    - DDD Specialists began direct outreach to individuals, families and support coordinators this week.
  - PPL launch of webinar series for support coordinators – details distributed to support coordination agencies.
Updates on Self-Directed Service Models

- Agency with Choice (AWC) model, with Easterseals as the fiscal intermediary:
  - Fee-for-Service transition with AWC as an option, with Easterseals as the fiscal intermediary, was temporarily suspended in March, resumed in June – Division now working on 5th cohort of transitioning individuals.
  - Easterseals to host AWC webinar for support coordinators on September 28 – details will be distributed to support coordination agencies.
Residential Moves guidance has been updated to allow non-emergent moves with certain precautions for COVID-19.

- Utilizes Receipt of COVID-19 Information Form, which is to be signed by individual/ guardian.
- It contains helpful information about the spread, risk and how to protect from the virus.
- Requires COVID-19 testing for new admissions.
Day Program Re-Opening Update

• The Division released Congregate Day Program Re-Opening Requirements today.
• The Department and Division wish to thank the Re-Opening Workgroup for their work in this important area.
Day Program Re-Opening Update

- New Jersey's restart and recovery is guided by data, improvements in public health, and the capacity to safeguard the public.
- As a result of improvements across these measures, congregate day programs are allowed to re-open once all of the required re-opening criteria have been met.
- This is not sooner than Monday, September 21, 2020. Some providers may open after that date.
- This provides individuals, families and guardians time to review and gives providers and support coordinators time to implement and comply with all requirements.
Day Program Re-Opening Update

- For Individuals, Families, Guardians and Support Coordinators:
  - Review the document in its entirety, specifically the relevant *How to Use This Document* section.
  - An *Individual Needs and Risk Assessment* is included to assist in decision-making and should be completed with the day services provider.
  - A *Receipt of COVID-19 Information Form* is included.
  - Direction for Support Coordinators is included.
Day Program Re-Opening Update

- For Congregate Day Service Providers
  - Review the document in its entirety.
  - Contact individuals served to complete the **Individual Needs and Risk Assessment** **together**.
  - Assessment used to inform **Facility Readiness Tool**.
  - Once in compliance, email the **Congregate Day Program Re-Opening Attestation**, per instructions, at least 48 hours before re-opening.
  - Be sure to collect the **Receipt of COVID-19 Information Form** for individuals who decide to attend in-person congregate day services.
Day Program Re-Opening Update

• Highlights
  ○ Per the Residential and Day Program Screening Policy, all individuals and staff must pass a screening for COVID-19, including temperature checks, before entering the facility.
  ○ Face coverings and PPE are required for all staff.
  ○ Additional PPE required for staff attending to personal care needs of the individuals.
Day Program Re-Opening Update

• Highlights
  ○ The requirements recognize that some individuals may not tolerate wearing face coverings or it may not be medically advisable for them to wear one.
  ○ Individual participants for whom it is not medically contraindicated should be encouraged to wear a face covering that covers the nose and mouth within the facility and/or in the agency vehicle.
Day Program Re-Opening Update

• Highlights
  o The total number of individuals served at one time will be 25% of the established Certificate of Occupancy for a location or the number of individuals who can be served while maintaining social distancing (six feet apart) at all times, whichever is less.
Day Program Re-Opening Update

Highlights

- Providers are directed to organize individuals and staff into groups no larger than 15, with consideration of compatibility and factors such as:
  - Individuals who reside together;
  - Individuals who do not reside together but spend time with each other outside of day program;
  - Individuals who reside in the same geographic area.
Day Program Re-Opening Update

- **Highlights**
  - Social distancing requirements are in place.
  - Cleaning of frequently touched surfaces must occur throughout the day.
  - There are restrictions around the communal sharing of food. Participants will be encouraged to bring their own lunch.
Day Program Re-Opening Update

• Highlights
  ○ Transportation services will be limited to prevent over-crowding on agency vehicles. Families, guardians, caretakers and residential agencies will be asked to provide transportation as things open up.
  ○ Visits/meetings at the day program will be strictly limited.
Day Program Re-Opening Update

• Highlights
  ○ Community outings may occur so long as social distancing and the venue’s COVID-19 requirements are met. This may impact individuals who do not tolerate or otherwise cannot wear a face-covering.
Day Program Re-Opening Update

Highlights

- Response procedures are required for:
  - Individuals or staff who present with symptoms of COVID-19 at screening or while at program.
  - Individuals or staff who the program is alerted test positive for COVID-19.
  - The return of individuals or staff who recover from COVID-19.

- Questions on this guidance can be directed to DDD.COVID-19@dhs.nj.gov.
Important Resources

- **NJ Department of Health**
  24-Hour Hotline: 1-800-222-1222

- **NJ Department of Human Services COVID-19 Information**

- Contact information for [local health departments in NJ](#)

- Contact information for [County OEM Coordinators in NJ](#)
Important Resources

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.COV1D-19@dhs.nj.gov
- To report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation: call 1.800.832.9173, then press 1.
Highlighted Resources

- 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