

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

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

September 3, 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
- 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\*

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State of New Jersey	
Positive	192,595
Deaths	14,181

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

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



# DDD Specific COVID-19 Statistics\*

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	Community		Developmental Centers	Total
	Licensed	Other		
Positive	675	296	426	1,397
Deaths	56	93	36	185

*\*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](#).*



# FY21 Proposed Budget

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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

# Temporary Service Modifications

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- **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

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- **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

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- **Highlights**

- 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

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- 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

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- **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

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- **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

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- **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

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- 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](mailto:DDD.COVID-19@dhs.nj.gov).



# Important Resources

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- [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

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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](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](#)