

The New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of Developmental Disabilities

1

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

October 1, 2020



THANK YOU!

2

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



Today's Webinar Will Provide Information on...

3

- State and DDD-Specific COVID-19 Statistics
- DDD October Update Webinars Schedule
- Upcoming Election
- CARI Checks
- Residential Providers
- Community Outings
- Day Program Re-Opening
- Economic Impact Payments
- ABLE Accounts
- Resources



New Jersey COVID-19 Current Statistics*

4

State of New Jersey	
Positive	205,275
Deaths	14,335

**This update is as of 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 30, 2020.*

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

DDD Specific COVID-19 Statistics*

5

	Community		Developmental Centers	Total
	Licensed	Own Home		
Positive	686	146	434	1,266
Deaths	58	31	38	127

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](#).

DDD October Webinar Schedule

6

- **October update webinars will be held:**

- October 1, 2020 – 10:30 am.
- October 15, 2020 – 10:30 am.
- October 29, 2020 – 10:30 am.

- **Register once for October webinars:**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7684397016242693390>.



Voting Resources from DRNJ

7

● VOTE

- Disability Rights New Jersey (DRNJ) has free voting resources available for individuals with I/DD, families and organizations:
 - ✦ **Staff Trainings** for organizations serving I/DD communities, both residential and community-based.
 - ✦ **Voting Presentations** for families of people with I/DD.
 - ✦ **Accessible Voting Resources** for those with I/DD.
 - ✦ **Voter Question Hotline:** 866.493.0023 | voterhotline@drnj.org (operating during regular business hours and 7AM to 8PM on Election Day).
- To reach DRNJ about voting resources, please contact aparente@drnj.org.



CARI Checks – Phase II

8

- August 7, 2017: N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10f expanded to require Child Abuse Record Information (CARI) background checks for employees of facilities or programs licensed, contracted or regulated by the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide community-based services to individuals with developmental disabilities.
 - CARI checks are required of all employees, including self-directed employees (SDEs).
- CARI checks implemented by Office of Program Integrity and Accountability (OPIA) in **two phases**.



CARI Checks – Phase II

9

- Phase I covered *prospective employees* and required CARI checks for anyone hired on or after July 16, 2018.
- Phase II requires CARI checks of all existing employees, including all existing SDEs.
 - Provider agencies and fiscal intermediaries must begin Phase II by **October 15, 2020** and should have a record of a completed CARI check on file for every employee/SDE by **December 31, 2020**.

CARI Checks – Phase II

10

- Every provider agency and FI has or will create a CARI account on the Department of Children and Families Online CARI Check Service.
 - Provider agency employees complete the online CARI application on-site or through an emailed link.
 - SDEs complete the online CARI application through an emailed link.
 - Employee/SDE CARI application link expires after two weeks.
 - Questions should be directed to the DHS Employment Controls and Compliance Unit (ECCU) Helpdesk:
DHS.ECCU@dhs.state.nj.us



Residential Providers

11

- The 20% increase to Individual Supports Daily Rate will continue through October 31, 2020.
 - This percentage may change moving forward as day programs re-open.
- The FY21 budget has passed which includes:
 - Funding for a second three-month, \$3.00-per-hour temporary wage increase for DSPs delivering Individual Supports-Daily Rate in provider-managed residential settings.
 - This will be effective from October 1 through December 31, 2020.



Residential Providers

12

- Payments will be provided as they have been.
- The Division will process an additional payment at the close of each month.
- Payment will be the difference between the rate claimed and the published rate.
- The published rate includes the \$3 and 20%.
- Details are found in the updated Temporary Residential Funding guidance.

Community Outings

13

- Agencies operating residential programs should be engaging residents in safe activities outside of the home in these cooler months.
- Consider underlying health conditions, ability to mask and social distance when identifying activities with residents.
- Examples can include walks in parks or other public spaces for exercise, a picnic or other activity.

Day Program Re-Opening

14

- Congregate Day Programs were able to re-open as early as September 21, 2020.
- 71 programs have re-opened so far.
- Other agencies are determining their re-opening strategy.
- Provider Performance and Monitoring Unit (PPMU) will be resuming modified field visits to complete compliance reviews.

Day Program Re-Opening

15

- Note on Screening

- Residential providers are required to screen and take temperature of residents returning to a residential facility from day program, employment, etc.
- This screening can take place inside the residence and should be done before the resident interacts with other residents.
- Additionally, residents should be regularly monitored for sudden or emerging signs of illness and kept back from day program if they are/may be ill.

Day Program Re-Opening

16

- **Note on Screening**

- If a resident shows symptoms and/or fever, they shall be immediately isolated away from other residents and a healthcare professional immediately consulted to determine if further isolation and/or COVID-19 testing is needed.
- Please see the updated guidance:
 - ✦ [Office of Licensing Residential FAQs](#)
 - ✦ [Residential and Day Program Screening Policy](#)

Day Program Re-Opening

17

- **Determination to Return to Day Program.**
 - Individual/guardian determine if they want to return.
 - Complete Individual Needs Risk Assessment with Day Provider.
 - Day Provider determines who they will be able to serve upon initial re-opening.
 - For those in residential settings, provider can engage with the individual, guardian and day provider. However, they cannot refuse to allow a resident to engage in day activities if they choose to do so.
 - Support Coordinators can be part of this process if the individual/guardian elects to include them.

Day Program Re-Opening

18

- **Alternate Services**

- The Division has received questions from individuals/families about alternatives to congregate day services.
- Individuals/families are encouraged to speak with their Support Coordinator on this topic.
- Some options may include:
 - ✦ Hiring a Self-Directed Employee;
 - ✦ Hiring an agency to send a Direct Support Professional into the home.

Economic Impact Payments

19

- Economic Impact Payments (i.e. Stimulus)
 - For the initial 12 months of receipt, will not count toward the asset limit for Medicaid and other State and Federal benefit programs.
 - After 12 months, it will count toward asset limit and may disqualify you from Medicaid and other benefits.
 - What to do?
 - ✦ Spend within 12 months (keep documentation); or
 - ✦ Open an ABLE account and transfer the funds to it.

ABLE Accounts

20

- Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE)
 - Helps people to save for disability related expenses on a tax-free basis.
 - Preserve ability to benefit from SSI Medicaid and other State and Federal programs.
 - Please visit the [NJ ABLE](#) website for more information.

Important Resources

21

- [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

22

- 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

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](#)