

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

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

December 10, 2020



# Agenda

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- COVID-19
- December Webinars
- FY21 DSP Wage Increase
- Holiday Visitation Policy
- Preliminary COVID-19 Vaccine Information
- Resources
- EVV 101

# New Jersey COVID-19 Current Statistics\*

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State of New Jersey	
Positive	377,055
Deaths	15,590

*\*This update is as of Wednesday, December 9, 2020.*

**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\*

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	Community		Developmental Centers	Total
	Licensed	Own Home		
Positive	1,010	225	532	1,767
Deaths	66	34	42	142

*\*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 December Webinar Schedule

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- December update webinar:
  - Wednesday, December 23, 2020 – 10:30 am
- Register Here:
  - [Register for December 23 Webinar](#)

# FY21 DSP Wage Increase

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- The following minor adjustments were made to the Division's Quick Guide to FFS Rate Increases Effective January 1, 2021. **The new FY21 rates remain the same.**

Service	Service Description / Tier	Procedure Code	FY20 Rate	FY21 Rate	FY21 Rate Total Increase	FY21 Rate DSP Increase	FY21 Rate Supervisor Increase
Individual Supports	Individual Supports Acuity	H2016HI22	12.43	12.87	<del>0.41</del> 0.44	<del>0.31</del> 0.33	<del>0.10</del> 0.11
Prevocational Training	Tier A – Group	T2015HIUS	2.87	2.97	<del>0.09</del> 0.10	0.07	<del>0.02</del> 0.03
Supported Employment	Tier D – Group	T2019HIUP	6.98	7.20	<del>0.21</del> 0.22	0.16	<del>0.05</del> 0.06

# Holiday Visitation Policy

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- The 14-day quarantine period used in the Division's [Holiday 2020 Residential Visitation Guidance](#) is based on the New Jersey Department of Health (NJ DOH) guidance.
- Although the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released amended guidance related to the quarantine period, NJ DOH will not be revising its guidance – and therefore the Division's holiday visitation guidance **remains unchanged.**

# Holiday Visitation Policy

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- The Residential Visitation Guidance released by the Division in July 2020 remains in effect. This guidance allows for:
  - Outdoor visits if 14 days with no staff or client positives.
  - Indoor visits if 28 days with no staff or client positives.
- Agencies shall not restrict visitation outside of that policy and the Holiday Visitation Guidance.
- All residential providers need to provide opportunities for virtual or telephone interaction between families and residents.



# Holiday Visitation Policy

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- Agencies should have already reviewed [CDC Guidance for Group Homes for Individuals with Disabilities](#) and ensured staff are well aware of COVID-19 symptoms and what to do.
- This site contains fact sheets, posters and other information that can be provided to staff and families.
- Agencies must stress to DSPs that if an individual, or one of their housemates, is sick that this is communicated to those that may engage in visits.

# COVID-19 Vaccine

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- In anticipation of approval of a safe and effective vaccine, NJ DOH has developed a [COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#) webpage.
  - As of this date and time, there is no COVID-19 vaccine approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
  - Multiple vaccines are in development and, as of October 13, four vaccines have begun Phase 3 clinical trials in the US.
  - It is anticipated the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines may receive emergency use approval from the FDA this month. Once approved, the federal government would allocate doses to states. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines both require two doses to be effective.

# COVID-19 Vaccine

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- Final decisions are being made about use of initially available limited supplies of COVID-19 vaccines. These decisions will be informed by:
  - The proven efficacy of the vaccines coming out of Phase 3 trials;
  - Recommendations from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#); and
  - Guidance from the CDC and other federal agencies.

# COVID-19 Vaccine

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- Once a vaccine is authorized or approved and recommended, the CDC and Operation Warp Speed (OWS) will work together to get those first vaccine doses out.
- When a safe and effective vaccine(s) is available, it will be distributed in a manner that is fair, ethical, transparent and timely for New Jerseyans.
- A phased approach will be used in New Jersey to ensure that the vaccine is distributed in a fair and equitable manner until larger quantities of vaccine become available (see NJ DOH [COVID-19: Who Will Be Able to Get the Vaccine](#)).
- At this time, there is no mandate for residential staff or residents to receive the vaccine but participation is **strongly** encouraged.



# COVID-19 Vaccine

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## NJ Department of Health Phased Approach to Vaccine Rollout

Phase 1 – Limited Doses Available	Phase 2 – Large Amount Available	Phase 3 – Sufficient Supply, Slowing Demand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Healthcare workers who may have contact with infected patients or infectious materials</li><li>• Other essential workers</li><li>• People at higher risk of severe COVID-19 illness (over age 65, underlying health conditions, etc.)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Remainder of those from Phase 1</li><li>• Critical populations</li><li>• General population</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Remainder of those from Phase 2</li><li>• Critical populations</li><li>• General population</li></ul>

Taken from [COVID-19: Who Will Be Able to Get the Vaccine](#), NJ Department of Health



# COVID-19 Vaccine

Categories of Critical Populations – including, but not limited to:

Healthcare Workers	Other Essential Workers	Adults at Higher Risk	Others at Higher Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospital</li> <li>• Long term care</li> <li>• Home care</li> <li>• Urgent care, clinics</li> <li>• Dialysis centers</li> <li>• Dental offices</li> <li>• Funeral homes</li> <li>• Pharmacies</li> <li>• Public health</li> <li>• Group homes</li> <li>• EMS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First responders</li> <li>• Food and agriculture</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Education/childcare</li> <li>• Energy</li> <li>• Water/sanitation</li> <li>• Law enforcement</li> <li>• Government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long term care residents</li> <li>• 65 years and older</li> <li>• Underlying medical conditions</li> <li>• Immunocompromised</li> <li>• Incarcerated</li> <li>• Homeless shelters</li> <li>• Group homes</li> <li>• Other congregate settings such as psychiatric facilities, seasonal migrant farm workers, etc.</li> </ul>	<p>People from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• communities that have disproportionately acquired and/or died from COVID-19</li> <li>• tribal communities</li> <li>• colleges/universities</li> <li>• rural communities</li> <li>• people with disabilities</li> <li>• people who are under- or uninsured</li> </ul>

Taken from [COVID-19: Who Will Be Able to Get the Vaccine](#), NJ Department of Health



# 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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- 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

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- 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](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](#)