

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 23, 2020



# Agenda

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- COVID-19
- January Webinars
- FY21 DSP Wage Increase
- Residential Enhancement (20%)
- Temporary \$3 Per Hour Increase for Group Homes
- COVID-19 Vaccine Information
- Resources

# New Jersey COVID-19 Current Statistics\*

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State of New Jersey	
Positive	435,763
Deaths	16,315

*\*This update is as of Wednesday, December 22, 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	1,159	271	572	2,002
Deaths	74	37	42	153

*\*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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- **January update webinars:**
  - Thursday, January 7, 2021 – 10:30 am
  - Thursday, January 21, 2021 – 10:30 am
- **Use links below to register:**
  - [Register for January 7 Update Webinar](#)
  - [Register for January 21 Update Webinar](#)

# FY21 DSP Wage Increase

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- DSP Wage Increase goes into effect January 1, 2021.
- The rate increases are expected to be updated in the system as of January 1 – any changes or delays will be communicated by the Division.
- Please see the updated [FAQs: FY2021 DSP and Supervisor Rate Increases](#)

# FY21 DSP Wage Increase

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- As the increased funding was allocated to the Division specifically for the purpose of a wage increase, it is required to be used for this purpose – **even if current wages are above minimum wage.**
- Because the statewide minimum wage will continue to increase (see [NJ Minimum Wage](#)), the funding allocated for a wage increase **must be passed through as an hourly wage increase and not a bonus.**

# FY21 DSP Wage Increase

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- **State Supplemental Payments**

- ✦ State Supplemental payments will receive an increase. However, as these funds are not eligible for federal match they are funded at 50% of the targeted increase.
- ✦ This is .62 per hour as opposed to \$1.25.
- ✦ This amount, at a minimum, must be passed through to DSPs and their supervisors.
- ✦ Agencies that are claiming for in-person and virtual services (eligible for federal match) should do their best to forecast that revenue and further add to the wage increase for DSPs and their supervisors.
- ✦ Once the public health emergency ends and regular claiming resumes, the remainder of the increase shall occur.

# Residential Enhancement

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- **20% Enhancement to Individual Supports Daily Rate:**
  - Will extend through at least January 31, 2021.
  - This amount will receive an upward adjustment to account for the January 1<sup>st</sup> wage increase.
  - As this payment is eligible for federal match, it will realize the full targeted increase of \$1.25 per hour for DSPs and their supervisors.

# Temporary \$3 Increase to DSPs

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- As you are aware, DHS/DDD implemented a second \$3 per hour wage increase for DSPs working in settings claiming Individual Supports Daily Rate.
- That was effective October 1 through December 31, 2020.
- DHS/DDD is pleased to announce this will extend from January 1 through March 31, 2021.

# COVID-19 Vaccine

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- Currently, two vaccines have received Emergency Use Authorization by the FDA - Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna.
- The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) continues to make recommendations about vaccine prioritization. On December 20<sup>th</sup> ACIP provided the following updated recommendations to states:
  - **Phase 1A** (health care personnel, and long-term care facility residents), if COVID-19 vaccine supply is limited, the following groups should be offered vaccination:
  - **Phase 1B:** persons aged  $\geq 75$  years and frontline essential workers.
  - **Phase 1C:** persons aged 65–74 years, persons aged 16–64 years with high-risk medical conditions, and other essential workers.



# COVID-19 Vaccine in New Jersey

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- New Jersey is currently in Phase 1A.
- Beginning December 15<sup>th</sup>, some New Jersey hospitals have received one or more shipments of the Pfizer vaccine and have begun to vaccinate frontline hospital and health care workers.
- We anticipate hospitals will receive regular shipments of vaccine over the coming weeks.
- Next, we anticipate vaccines will be available at certain long term care facilities beginning as early as December 28<sup>th</sup>.

# COVID-19 Vaccine in New Jersey

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- Six mega sites throughout New Jersey will serve as vaccination hubs for phased priority groups, part of a critical network of sites tasked with carrying out the state's COVID-19 vaccination plan fairly and equitably:
  - Atlantic County: Atlantic City Convention Center
  - Bergen County: Racetrack at Meadowlands, East Rutherford
  - Burlington County: Moorestown Mall
  - Gloucester County: Rowan College of South Jersey, Sewell
  - Middlesex County: New Jersey Convention and Exposition Center, Edison
  - Morris County: Rockaway Townsquare
- These six state-coordinated sites are expected to begin opening in early January and will vaccinate front-line healthcare workers and then continue to Phases 1B & 1C depending on the supply of vaccine available.
- After these phases are complete, the general public will be eligible for vaccination. The timing of the progression among the groups depends on the supply of vaccine to the state.

# COVID-19: Point of Dispensing (POD) Fact Sheet



## What is a POD?

A POD (Point of Dispensing) is a temporary site in the community where vaccines can be quickly administered to people in large numbers. POD sites will be set up within each county in New Jersey.



## Who can come to a POD?

Once a COVID-19 vaccine is approved for use, it will likely be available in limited amounts. Until the vaccine can be produced in large quantities, critical populations will be given priority. See "[COVID-19 Vaccine: Who Will Be Able to Get the Vaccine?](#)" for more information.



## What happens in a POD?

The COVID-19 vaccine will require two doses, several weeks apart, to be effective. After receiving your first dose, you will be given instructions on when and where to come back for your second dose.



## Where can I find out more?

- Visit the New Jersey Department of Health [COVID-19 Vaccination](#) page for vaccine information.

# COVID-19 Vaccine in New Jersey

- In addition to the mega sites, there will be numerous Vaccine Points of Delivery (PODs) in communities across NJ.
- [COVID-19 Vaccine: Who Will Be Able to Get the Vaccine?](#)
- [NJDOH COVID-19 Vaccine](#) webpage

# COVID-19 Vaccine in New Jersey

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- New Jersey's Long Term Care Facilities will receive the vaccine through the federal Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care (LTC) Program which will be administered onsite by CVS and Walgreens.
- DDD's five developmental centers have been enrolled in this program.
  - Staff and residents of the DCs will be vaccinated through this program.
  - DDD does not have dates from CVS/ Walgreens for when this will begin.
  - Developmental Centers have begun the process to obtain informed consent from guardians of residents who wish for their loved ones to receive the vaccine.
  - This program will use the Pfizer vaccine.

# COVID-19 Vaccine

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- The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) will be providing weekly updates on the COVID-19 vaccine via a weekly newsletter, *Vax Matters*.
- Current and past issues of the NJDOH *Vax Matters* newsletter, as well as other vaccine resources, are available on the [NJDOH COVID-19 Vaccine](#) webpage.
- DDD will continue to provide updates as we receive them.

# 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](#)