

State of New Jersey



NJ DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Division Update for Individuals, Families, and Providers

September 22, 2022



Agenda

- Upcoming Webinars
- COVID-19 Statistics
- Executive Directive 21-011
- COVID-19 Boosters
- Reminders for Service Providers on the HCBS Settings Final Rule
- Community Care and Supports Program Manual Changes
- Resources

DDD Update Webinar Schedule

- October Update Webinar:
 - Thursday, October 27, 2022 – 10:30 am.
 - [Register for the October Webinar.](#)
- November Update Webinar:
 - **Tuesday, November 15, 2022 – 10:30 am.**
 - [Register for the November Webinar.](#)
- December Update Webinar:
 - **Thursday, December 15, 2022 – 10:30 am.**
 - [Register for the December Webinar.](#)



New Jersey COVID-19 Current Statistics*



State of New Jersey	
Positive	2,305,490
Deaths	31,577

**This update is as of September 21, 2022.*

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*



	Community		Developmental Centers	Total
	Licensed	Own Home		
Positive	4,440	2,416	880	7,736
Deaths	136	87	42	265

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](#).

Update to Executive Directive 21-011



- In accordance with [Executive Order 294](#), which continues to direct that COVID-19 vaccination is required for staff working in specific covered settings, the Department of Health revised [Executive Directive 21-011](#) on September 2, 2022.
- The ED defines vaccination requirements, the parameters an employer can use to grant a vaccination exemption, testing frequency for staff granted an exemption, documentation requirements, etc.

Update to Executive Directive 21-011

- For Division programs, it is applicable to:
 - Licensed community residences for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD);
 - Certified day programs for individuals with IDD; and
 - Support Coordination Agencies.
- The revised ED provides clarification around testing frequency for staff granted a vaccination exemption.



Update to Executive Directive 21-011

- Testing frequency is based on the [CDC Community Transmission Levels](#) which are included in the Department of Health's [COVID-19 Weekly Surveillance Report](#) (See #2 *Community Transmission Levels used for Healthcare Settings*). Testing frequency is:

CDC Community Transmission Level	Minimum Testing Frequency
Low (Blue)	Once a Week
Moderate (Yellow)	Once a Week
Substantial (Orange)	Twice a Week
High (Red)	Twice a Week

COVID-19 Boosters

- The Division continues its partnership with Walmart for COVID-19 Vaccination for eligible individuals with IDD living in congregate residential settings, as well as their staff.
- Please note that eligible residents and staff are **not** limited to only using Walmart for vaccination.
- All approved COVID-19 vaccines (i.e. all manufacturers – primary series and boosters) are offered.

COVID-19 Boosters

- Walmart has identified [34 of its New Jersey locations](#) to provide COVID-19 vaccination, including booster(s).
- Scheduling of the vaccination appointment online at <https://www.walmart.com/cp/flu-shots-immunizations/1228302> is preferred but, to manage patient expectations in-store, **will not be available until late September 2022.**
- Online scheduling will require each person being vaccinated to have their own unique email address and consent from the individual/guardian. Consent should be documented by the service provider in the manner is deems appropriate.

COVID-19 Boosters

- Ahead of online scheduling being available, or if preferred, a residential provider can directly contact one of the [34 identified Walmart locations](#) via telephone **starting September 19, 2022.**
- When making contact, they will need to identify themselves as an IDD or TBI Disability Service Provider, communicate the names of those to be scheduled and whether the person is a resident or staff person.
- Please see [Walmart COVID-19 Primary Series and Booster Vaccine Program for Residents with IDD, TBI and Their Staff](#) for more information.

Reminders for Service Providers on the HCBS Settings Final Rule

- The date for New Jersey's compliance with the HCBS Settings Rule is in early 2023.
- The most current information on our Statewide Transition Plan can be found at the [Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services Statewide Transition Plan Website](#) and the [Division's HCBS Statewide Transition Plan Website](#).
- A webinar will be held on [September 30, 2022 at 12pm](#) to provide an overview of the Statewide Transition Plan.
- Agencies that have areas to remediate as a result of on-site visits, policy reviews, interviews, etc. will be notified shortly.
- The final version of the Statewide Transition Plan will be posted shortly for public comment.
- In advance of this, the Division is providing the following reminders for Service Providers.

Reminders for Service Providers on the HCBS Settings Final Rule

- Service providers operating provider-owned or controlled residential settings (i.e., Group Homes, Supervised Apartments, etc.):
 - Ensure residents have a lease or residency agreement in place for each resident.
 - If there is any individual who has a specific restriction pertaining to food access, door locks, etc. not already approved by the Planning Team (including Human Rights Committee approval as applicable), and documented in the service plan, the service provider must alert the resident's Support Coordinator immediately to ensure this process is completed and in place by November 30, 2022.
 - Must be in compliance with DHS Information Bulletin titled [Privacy in Residential Living Spaces](#) by December 1, 2022.
 - Residents must have access to visitors at any time.

Reminders for Service Providers on the HCBS Settings Final Rule

- Service providers operating congregate day habilitation programs, prevocational programs, and group supported employment:
 - Ensure that the participants are included in activity planning and are supported to elect alternate activities if desired.
 - If there is an individual with a specific restriction not already approved by the Planning Team (including Human Rights Committee approval as applicable), and documented in the service plan, the service provider must alert the resident's Support Coordinator immediately to ensure this process is completed and in place by November 30, 2022.

Reminders for Service Providers on the HCBS Settings Final Rule

- Support Coordinators:
 - Assist individuals to choose their services and supports, and who provides them.
 - Communicate settings options to the individual, minimally at the annual Planning Team Meeting, including opportunities for a non-disability specific setting and the option for a private unit in a residential setting. The setting options must be identified and documented in the person-centered service plan and based on the individual's needs, preferences, and, for residential settings, resources available for room and board.
 - As applicable, ensure that for an individual residing in a group home, supervised apartment or attending a day habilitation program, prevocational program, or group supported employment program have any restriction supported by a specific assessed need and justified in the person-centered service plan (i.e. ISP) by November 30, 2022.

Reminders for Service Providers on the HCBS Settings Final Rule

- Documentation for HCBS Modifications must include:
 - Identification of the specific and individualized assessed need; That positive interventions/less intrusive methods have been tried without success; That the description of the modification is clear and directly proportionate to the assessed need; That it is required to keep the individual safe; That there is regular collection/review of data to measure the effectiveness of the modification; That the need for continued use of the modification is regularly reviewed; That the individual/guardian is included in the process.
- Please see section 11.7 *Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Settings Compliance* in the CCP or SP Manual for more detail.

Reminders for Service Providers on the HCBS Settings Final Rule

- Helpful information for Service Providers:
 - [A Provider's Guide to the Home and Community Based Services Final Settings Rule](#)
 - This guide assists service providers with information, best practices, and examples to assist in HCBS compliance.
- Helpful information for individuals:
 - [Community Life Video Series](#)
 - The Boggs Center's Community Life Video Series highlights why community life and aspects of the Rule that support it are important to people with disabilities.



Community Care and Supports Program Manual Changes

- On September 19, 2022 the Division released updated manuals for the [Community Care Program](#) and [Supports Program](#).
- A summary of the changes can be found on page two of both manuals and are summarized on the on the following slides.

Community Care and Supports Program Manual Changes

- Summary of Changes:
 - General grammatical, typo corrections, updates to form names and links where applicable, etc.
 - Updated statement related to Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Settings Final Rule.
 - Revised individual budgets to reflect rate increases since last revision.
 - Clarified that language around plan revisions found in Section 11.7 is a Support Coordinator responsibility.



Community Care and Supports Program Manual Changes

- Summary of Changes:
 - Added detail around the need for an annual physical and dental exam and that they be uploaded into the iRecord, especially for persons in provider managed residential and day service settings.
 - Clarified that PCPT must be comprehensive and updated annually.
 - Aligned with existing SDE training timeframes already posted in Appendix E.

Community Care and Supports Program Manual Changes

- Summary of Changes:
 - Clarified that, in circumstances where an SDE is administering medications, that the medication practicum must also have been completed prior to administering.
 - Added additional language around the reporting of HCBS Settings Final Rule Compliance issues. Specifically, that the person's Support Coordinator/Case Manager can be notified in addition to emailing the HCBS helpdesk.

Community Care and Supports Program Manual Changes

- Summary of Changes:
 - Added statement that service provider Policy and Procedure Manuals must be clear and understandable.
 - Clarified that service providers must have two CDS Administrators.
 - Added section on availability of Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan.
 - Added clarity around Emergency Back-up Plans for persons residing outside of provider managed residential settings.

Community Care and Supports Program Manual Changes

- Summary of Changes:
 - Added clarity around background checks.
 - Added that Support Coordination Agency On-Call service must include response from a live person.
 - Removed reference to Language Line in Interpreter Services definition.



Community Care and Supports Program Manual Changes

- Summary of Changes:
 - Adjusted Goods and Services definition to allow for virtual and/or in-person Goods and Services for up to 12 hours per week (Previous limit on classes was 10 hours per week and only permitted in-person attendance). Also clarified that Service Animals remain excluded as an eligible expense.





Important Resources

- [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

- For assistance during this time:
 - For issues, call the Division Community Services office for your county or 1 (800) 832-9173.
 - 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

- For individuals, families and caregivers:
 - [Boggs Center COVID-19 Information and Resources](#)
 - [COVID-19 Materials for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Care Providers.](#)
- 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.](#)