

State of New Jersey



# **NJ DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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## **DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

### **Division Update for Individuals, Families, and Providers**

**March 23, 2023**

# Agenda

- Upcoming Webinars
- COVID-19 Statistics
- Updated Residential, Day Program, and Support Coordinator COVID-19 Policy
- Self-Directed Employee Mandated Training Requirement
- Employee On-boarding
- Unwinding of the Public Health Emergency Rules for Medicaid
- Temporary Service Modifications
- Proposed FY24 Budget
- Reminders for Service Providers on the HCBS Settings Final Rule
- Resources

# Next DDD Update Webinar

- April Update Webinar:
  - Thursday, April 27, 2023 – 10:30 am.
  - [Register for the April Webinar.](#)
- Additional 2023 dates and registration information can be found on the Division's [Public Update Meetings](#) website.

# New Jersey COVID-19 Current Statistics\*



State of New Jersey	
Positive	2,555,263
Deaths	32,934

*\*This update is as of March 22, 2023.*

**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	5,640	3,190	950	9,780
Deaths	138	90	44	272

*\*DDD-specific statistics are updated monthly. Community data includes individuals actively under DDD services in settings such as group homes, supervised apartments, out of state, and own-home settings.*

# Updated Residential, Day Program, and Support Coordinator COVID-19 Policy

- DDD is pleased to release its updated [Residential, Day Program, and Support Coordinator COVID-19 Policy](#).
- The policy provides additional information and flexibility related to COVID-19 which include, but are not limited to:
  - The option to move away from daily screening of individuals, staff, and visitors so long as all are made aware of *Criteria* and *Actions* related to exposure to, symptoms of, and positivity for COVID-19 (Please note that residential settings are still required to monitor residents for sudden or emerging symptoms/signs of illness which includes taking and recording their temperature).

# Updated Residential, Day Program, and Support Coordinator COVID-19 Policy

- Instruction to Support Coordinators on face-to-face visit requirements (This guidance replaces the previous stand alone Support Coordinator Field Visit guidance released in March 2022).
- Continuation of the requirement for staff to be up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccination or, if granted a medical or religious exemption, be tested once or twice weekly.
- Continuation of masking recommendations from previous policy, as well as maintaining the option for a more restrictive policy.
- Please see [Residential, Day Program, and Support Coordinator COVID-19 Policy](#) for complete information.



# Self-Directed Employee Mandatory Training Requirement (VF/EA SDE Model with PPL)

- The Division's Waiver Programs have requirements around staff training. These requirements are mandatory and apply to Direct Support Professionals and Self-Directed Employees (SDEs).
- These requirements are outlined in Appendix E of the [Supports Program](#) and [Community Care Program](#) Manuals.
- These requirements apply to all SDEs, regardless of familial relationship the SDE may have with the the individual receiving services.
- These training requirements are:



# Self-Directed Employee Mandatory Training Requirement (VF/EA SDE Model with PPL)

- **Within six (6) months of hire:**
  - DDD System Mandatory Training Bundle;
    - DDD Stephen Komninos' Law Training;
    - DDD Life Threatening Emergencies (Danielle's Law);
    - DDD Shifting Expectations: Changes in Perception, Life Experience and Services;
    - Prevention of Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation: Modules 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 and practicum;
    - Individual/Family-Developed Orientation (length, content determined by the individual/family).

# Self-Directed Employee Mandatory Training Requirement (VF/EA SDE Model with PPL)

- **Within six (6) months of hire and every two years thereafter:**
  - CPR Certification (recertification every two years);
  - Standard First Aid Certification (recertification every two year);
- **Note on CPR/First Aid Certifications**
  - CPR/First Aid training can be completed online but **requires an instructor-led classroom skill section.**

# Self-Directed Employee Mandatory Training Requirement (VF/EA SDE Model with PPL)

- In late spring of 2022, due to the impact of the Public Health Emergency, the Division permitted a one-time extension for SDEs with PPL who exceeded the six-month timeframe to complete all mandated trainings.
- During that time, the Division partnered with PPL to ensure all SDEs and their Employers of Record were aware of the SDE Mandatory Training requirements and provided all necessary access and information to assist in completing the required trainings and Training Certification Form.
- At this time, a high number of SDEs are not in compliance with the mandatory training requirements. Therefore, the Division and PPL are again communicating this requirement and will begin implementing a final deadline for those SDEs who have exceeded the six-month timeframe to complete all mandatory trainings as well as the CPR/First Aid Recertification, required every two years.

# Self-Directed Employee Mandatory Training Requirement (VF/EA SDE Model with PPL)

- Effective April 1, 2023, all SDEs who have been employed six-months (180 days) or longer must complete all mandated trainings by **June 1, 2023**. This includes CPR/First Aid Recertification, which must occur once every two years.
  - Current SDEs (with a hire date on or before December 1, 2022) have until June 1, 2023 to complete all required trainings and submit the signed Training Certification Form and/or CPR/First Aid Recertification Form to PPL.
  - New SDEs (with a hire date after December 1, 2022) will have six months (180 days) from their date of hire to complete all required trainings and submit the signed Training Certification Form and/or CPR/First Aid Recertification Form once every two years thereafter to PPL.
- If the mandatory trainings and the Training Certification Form and/or CPR/First Aid Recertification Form are not completed and submitted to PPL via [njddd@pcgus.com](mailto:njddd@pcgus.com) or via fax to 1-844-842-5978 within the required timeframe, you may no longer be able to provide services and may not receive payment for services after the required timeframe.

# Employee Onboarding

- Effective May 15, 2023, new hires must complete onboarding requirements prior to employment. OPIA's Employment Controls and Compliance Unit (ECCU) will no longer process emergency requests for hire.
- For employees who have already begun employment based on emergency approval prior to May 15, 2023, employers will have until June 15, 2023, to complete criminal background checks via fingerprinting.
- Please see [Updated Employee On-boarding Requirements](#) for more information.

# Unwinding of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Rules for Medicaid

- Medicaid Unwinding begins April 1, 2023.
- Preparing for the *Unwinding*:
  - Call 1-800-701-0710 (TTY: 711) to update contact information, especially if you moved in the last 3 years.
  - Watch for mail from NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid **and** make sure to reply on time.
  - Continue to ensure income and resources are below the limits for the Medicaid Program in which you are enrolled.
  - Additional information can be found on the DMAHS website:
    - <https://nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/staycoverednj/>
    - <https://nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/staycoverednj/unwinding/>
    - [https://nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/staycoverednj/documents/StayCoveredNJ\\_Toolkit.pdf](https://nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/staycoverednj/documents/StayCoveredNJ_Toolkit.pdf)

# Unwinding of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Rules for Medicaid

- Please feel free to reach out to the DDD Medicaid Eligibility Helpdesk with any questions:

[DDD.MediEligHelpdesk@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DDD.MediEligHelpdesk@dhs.nj.gov)



# Temporary Service Modifications

- Since the pandemic began, DDD has permitted [Temporary Service Modifications](#) and other flexibilities through Appendix K approvals permitted by CMS.
- This has allowed flexibilities such as:
  - Remote provision of services (Day habilitation, classes, etc.).
  - Parent, Spouse, Guardian to be a Self-Directed Employee.
  - Allowed day habilitation to occur outside of daytime hours and on weekends.
  - Allowance for certain services to overlap. For example, remote day habilitation occurring at the same time as Individual Supports 15-minute increment.
  - Support Coordinator Visits to be held remotely.
  - Provision of overtime in the DDD self-directed services of option.





# Temporary Service Modifications

- As the Federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) will now sunset on May 11, 2023, DDD will need to sunset some flexibilities on November 7, 2023 (6 months post end of PHE).
- DDD has made policy changes to allow the following **permanently**:
  - Effective September 2022 - Remote provision of virtual classes through Goods and Services up to 12 hours per week. Please note that this provision does not extend to other DDD services such as day habilitation.
  - Effective January 2022 - Allowance for Parent, Spouse, Guardian to be a Self-Directed Employee (SDE). *Please note that CMS is requiring DDD put Guardrails in place in circumstances where the SDE is the Authorized Representative.*
- The Division is reviewing making the allowance for SDE overtime permanent.

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# Temporary Service Modifications

- The below flexibilities will sunset on November 7, 2023:
  - Remote/Virtual provision of DDD services outside of Classes through Goods and Services.
  - Day habilitation occurring outside of daytime hours and on weekends. Includes remote/virtual services.
  - Certain services to overlap. For example, remote day habilitation occurring at the same time as Individual Supports 15-minute increment.
  - Support Coordinator Visits to be held remotely/virtually.
- Please plan accordingly.



# Proposed FY24 Budget

- Governor Murphy announced our *proposed* FY24 Budget. If passed as it is written today, it will provide for the following one-time and on-going funding.
- One Time
  - \$3M in funding for a two year pilot program to fund 3,000 Direct Support Professionals to be certified through the National Association for the Dually Diagnosed (NADD) Competency Based IDD/MI Dual Diagnosis Direct Support Professional Certification Program.

# Proposed FY24 Budget

- One Time

- \$3.2M in funding to implement up to two START Model Crisis Response Teams. *Ongoing funding beyond FY24 is required.*
  - Developed in 1988 by Dr. Joan B. Beasley, START stands for Systemic, Therapeutic, Assessment, Resources and Treatment. The model is a person-centered, solutions-focused approach that employs positive psychology and other evidence-based practices.
  - START needs to complete a systems analysis before implementation.
  - Implementation will also require a Request for Proposal process to identify up to two entities which START will train on the model. Estimated launch in early calendar year 2024.

# Proposed FY24 Budget

- One Time
  - \$6M in funding to develop 25 group homes/100 residential beds to support persons moving out of nursing homes and other institutional settings.
    - This will require a process (TBD) where an entity agrees to serve a person identified by DDD who is moving out of a qualified setting (Nursing Home, etc.).
    - Homes are limited to a maximum of four persons, each with their own bedroom.
    - \$60,000 in funding per bed (\$240,000 per site) is available to support development of the location. This includes sprinkler, fire alarm, and \$3,000 in furniture costs per bed. Funding can also be used for vehicles, accessibility modifications, staff training, etc.

# Proposed FY24 Budget

- One Time
  - Workforce Recruitment/Retention.
  - Funding for loan redemption for front line staff.
  - Funding for tuition reimbursement for front line staff.

# Proposed FY24 Budget

- On-Going
  - Effective July 1, 2023, \$250,000 (\$125,000 State) increase of the Supports Brokerage rate from \$6.09 per 15-minute increment to \$10 per 15 minute increment.
  - Effective July 1, 2023, \$72 (\$36M State) for a 3% across the board cost of living adjustment (COLA) increase to all DDD Fee-for-Service rates.

# Proposed FY24 Budget

- On-Going
  - Effective January 1, 2024, \$83.4M (\$41.7M State) to support a \$1.25/hour increase for Direct Support Professionals and Supervisors.
  - \$8.6M (\$6.8M State + 1.8M Federal) of funding to re-develop the Division's Emergency Capacity System beds. This amount includes one-time start-up costs.



# Proposed FY24 Budget

- On-Going
  - \$9M (\$4.5M State) to continue to fund the Support Coordination rate increase initiated in November 2021. This rate increase was originally funded using one-time federal funds. The proposed FY24 state budget will annualize the rate increase into the Division's budget.
  - \$5M of State only funding to increase provider managed rents by 10%.

# HCBS Settings Final Rule

- The March 17, 2023 compliance date for the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Settings Final Rule has passed.
- CMS issued Final Approval of the STP on January 20, 2023.
- Settings that are pending Heightened Scrutiny review will be contacted when more information is available from CMS.
- The State and its providers are now required to shift to on-going compliance.

# 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 and families:
  - [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.
  - [DDD's NJ Statewide Transition Plan "At a Glance"](#)
- Additional information can be found at:
  - [Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services Statewide Transition Plan Website](#)
  - [Division's HCBS Statewide Transition Plan Website.](#)

# 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
- [The Boggs Center](#)
  - 1-732-235-9300



# 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](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.