



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Peter Mason
Deputy Commissioner

To: DDS Providers

From: Katie Rock-Burns, Chief of Staff

CC: Jordan A. Scheff, Commissioner, Peter Mason, Deputy Commissioner, Regional Directors, Private ARDs, Resource Administrators, ARC of CT, The Alliance

Date: October 1, 2020

Subject: COVID-19 Testing

Connecticut has been expanding and supporting testing capacity across the state as a critical response and mitigation tool throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of this memo is to provide testing information and resources to DDS providers.

A comprehensive list of testing sites can be found through United Way 211 (www.211ct.org/covidtesting or by calling 2-1-1). The 211 search function also features various filters and information by site to indicate whether referrals are needed or symptoms are required for certain testing locations, among other details.

Testing is recommended for anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. In certain situations, more frequent testing may be recommended even without symptoms (asymptomatic testing). The following circumstances, which apply to the DDS community, may cause individuals to be at greater risk of contracting COVID-19 and therefore may warrant asymptomatic testing:

- Individuals and staff living in high risk communities (e.g. high population density, urban areas with community spread)
 - For individuals living in these communities, testing may be necessary only IF they are accessing the community
 - For staff living in these communities, testing may be necessary no matter where they work
- Individuals living in congregate care
- Staff working in congregate care settings

Testing is available in many locations throughout the state. For those with symptoms of COVID-19, there are no out-of-pocket costs for testing as health insurers have voluntarily waived cost sharing for testing on a temporary basis. Many sites also offer testing for people without health insurance. Asymptomatic testing for individuals

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and staff in the situations highlighted above may also be covered by the state. This testing can be accessed through community-based Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs in your area can be located by searching “Federally Qualified Health Centers” on the United Way 211 website www.211ct.org or by calling 2-1-1

In extraordinary circumstances, a DDS provider may request assistance setting up onsite testing for a program supporting individuals with significant medical, mobility, or behavioral challenges that make accessing community testing impossible. Resources for onsite testing are limited, so requests should be made only when absolutely necessary. A request for consideration may be made by emailing BOTH the Private Assistant Regional Director (ARD) and the Resource Administrator for your DDS Region.

	Private ARD	Resource Administrator
North	Stacie Silva-Gordon stacie.silva-gordon@ct.gov	Sean Bannon sean.bannon@ct.gov
South	Kathy Chatlas kathleen.chatlas@ct.gov	Len Cipollone leonard.cipollone@ct.gov
West	Shannon O'Brien shannon.o'brien@ct.gov	John Adams john.p.adams@ct.gov

As a reminder, DDS has set up a general inbox for any qualified providers that may have questions regarding this memo or any COVID-19 related planning efforts. Please use the following email for such communications: DDS.COVID19@ct.gov.