



State of Connecticut  
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont  
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff  
Commissioner

Peter Mason  
Deputy Commissioner

May 8, 2020

Dear Individuals, Families and Guardians,

In an effort to provide ongoing updates regarding statewide management efforts for COVID-19, this memo summarizes guidance and provides further updates from the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS) as of the date of this memo.

The state is currently planning to reopen certain services and establishments on May 20, 2020. As DDS considers what reopening will look like for our system, please be assured that all decisions continue to be focused on maintaining the health, safety and welfare of you and your loved ones.

At this time, the state's first phase of reopening will largely **not** affect the guidance currently governing DDS services and supports. Updated DDS guidance includes:

**Visitation Ban-Extended**

- DDS has **issued a second extension on the visitation ban** in all residential facilities for persons with intellectual disability and facilities overseen by DDS. Pursuant to this guidance, effective May 14, 2020 this ban will extend for a period of an additional 30 days, unless otherwise directed.
- Providers may develop alternative methods of connection for individuals and families, as determined on a case-by-case basis. Methods may include use of technology, or, depending upon the review and approval of the provider, supervised perimeter visits (i.e. window visits, outdoor social-distancing visits) in which social distancing and PPE requirements are followed. Families are required to bring and utilize their own face coverings, respect all social distancing guidelines and any additional requirements as communicated by the provider.

**Employment and Day Programs**

**Congregate Settings**

- At this time, DDS will continue to require that all congregate day and employment settings cease operation until further notice. Certain exceptions were outlined in the [March 27, 2020](#) and [April 15, 2020](#) memos.
- Please note: services may still be provided to individuals enrolled in these congregate settings. Please see the memos above and other guidance available on the website for details.

**Group Day and Individual Supported Employment (ISE) supports**

- At this time, DDS will continue to allow individual and group supported employment (ISE/GSE) settings to continue for those community employment sites that are considered essential or those settings in which the individuals would be risking their jobs if they did not report to work.

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- At this time, DDS will allow individuals' teams to determine whether an individual can safely resume their supported employment if their employer is reopening under guidance from the state.
- Please refer to the [March 27, 2020](#) and [April 15, 2020](#) memos for more information on transportation and group size guidance.

## **Grads**

- Individuals who are graduating this year should continue to explore post graduate services and providers. Individuals and families should continue working closely with their case manager and connecting with providers. Most providers have moved to a virtual intake process and a few have developed a virtual tour of the services sites.

## **DDS Case Management**

- DDS recently communicated that we have received federal approval for our Appendix K application. This approval allows DDS to provide current waiver services with some flexibility. For more information on the flexibility this application provides please refer to the [April 2, 2020 DDS memo](#) for individuals and families. Please continue to work with your assigned case manager on any changes or questions regarding your current supports and services.
- DDS case managers will continue to work with you to convene Individual Plans via tele-conference. Annual Individual Planning meetings and Level of Need assessments may be extended based on case manager evaluation.
- All quality service reviews, initial intake visits, and other service coordination visits continue to be suspended. However, tasks that require face-to-face visits to ensure health and safety will continue. These tasks include well-care visits and immediate protective service orders.
- Please continue to work with your case manager if you experience any COVID-19 related support challenges and need to request assistance.

## **General Updates**

### **Respite Centers**

- All DDS respite centers will remain closed until at least June 30, 2020.

### **Dental Clinics**

- All scheduled, elective, routine and non-urgent dental services in DDS dental clinics remain cancelled until further notice.

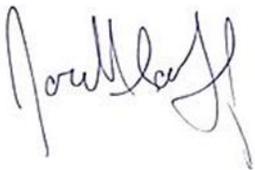
For general information and statewide updates related to COVID-19 please visit:

<https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus>

As we move into the summer, we will continue to review public health guidance to determine the appropriate next steps. Any decisions we make related to the phased reopening of the state will be carefully considered and implemented with the health and safety of you and your loved ones in mind.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jordan A. Scheff  
Commissioner  
Department of Developmental Services