



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Peter Mason
Deputy Commissioner

April 9, 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.

DDS continues to take steps that may drastically change the daily routine of the individuals we support and our qualified providers. Please be assured that all decisions were focused on maintaining the health and safety and welfare of you and your loved ones.

DDS guidance includes:

Visitation Ban-Extended

- Distributed to DDS providers earlier today, DDS has [issued an extension to the complete ban on visitors](#) in all residential facilities for persons with intellectual disability and facilities operated DDS. Pursuant to this guidance, effective April 14, 2020 this ban will extend for a period of an additional 30 days.

Employment and Day Programs

Congregate Settings

- As of March 30, 2020, DDS required that all congregated day and employment settings cease operation until further notice. Certain exceptions are allowed. Plans for exceptions must be approved by DDS. Please refer to the [March 27, 2020 provider memo](#) for more information.

Group Day and Individual Supported Employment (ISE) supports

- As of March 30, 2020, DDS allowed 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. For more information please refer to the [March 27, 2020 provider memo](#) for more information.

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 are 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 June 30, 2020.

Dental Clinics

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

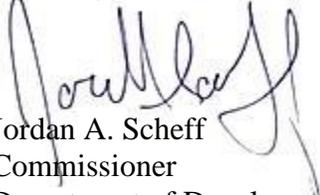
For general information and statewide updates related to COVID-19 please visit:

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

DDS continues to work with the administration, our sister state agencies, federal partners and our network of providers on all pandemic related efforts and will continue to communicate any statewide and agency-based updates as they become available.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner
Department of Developmental Services