



State of Connecticut Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Peter Mason
Deputy Commissioner

March 20, 2020

To The Provider Community,

First, let me begin by saying thank you. Thank you for your patience. Thank you for your understanding, Thank you for your feedback and questions. Thank you for your commitment to those we support. Thank you for all you are doing in these unprecedented times!

Let me also acknowledge that I have often boasted of the team of people around me and around the state that work for DDS. I have never been more proud of them. It has truly been a huge team effort, and although we may not have answered every question yet, the pace they have sustained for the last ten days, like you have, is remarkable. I am hopeful that soon, while still in period of disruption for sure, we at least find a sustainable pace.

With regards to the initial sprint, DDS has issued an enormous amount of guidance, much of which has been changed or updated, based on state and national direction. Attached find guidance we are releasing for the first time that should be very user friendly for determining alternate acceptable ways to provide some services. More to follow next week. Please remember that you can access all communications to providers and families, including FAQs, on the DDS website. As of Friday March 20th, here is a brief summary of where we're at:

DAY

- Cease operation of any day/employment congregate settings of 50 or more, staff and those supported combined.
- Day program providers may redeploy their staff to provide similar supports within residential settings, at their discretion.
- Funding was addressed through a memo and FAQs.

RESIDENTIAL

- Implementation order for Governor's Executive Order 7C – no visitors to DDS residential facilities (public/private). DDS encourages agencies to work with families on remote/electronic face-to-face options for continued connection.
- Specific health/nursing guidance for residential settings was addressed through FAQs.
- IHS guidelines addressed movement toward remote/electronic face-to-face options.
- Funding was addressed through a memo and FAQs. Additional guidance on certain types of services (e.g. individualized budgets, IHS) is forthcoming.

ADMINISTRATIVE

- DDS case managers are working to convene IP and LON meetings remotely and implementing extensions as necessary.
- All NCI, QSR, and licensing visits are currently suspended.
 - o POCs extended by 90 days.
- All DDS-operated in-person trainings are currently suspended.
 - o Med certs expiring 3/1 – 6/1 will be extended for 90 days.
 - o PMT recerts extended by six months.
 - o CPR refresher courses are suspended and not required; exploring options for when 2-year certs expire.
 - o All other mandatory trainings extended by 90 days.

Additional guidance on many other inquiries will continue to be offered through the updated Provider FAQs. This is just a quick list of the major programmatic decisions that DDS has arrived at over the past week. We have also attached an at-a-glance sheet outlining the remote support options by program type. We hope this is helpful.

The duration of this event is lengthy. I hope this weekend you have a moment to pause. I hope you get to turn off the news. I hope you get to connect with friends and family in a socially distanced way. We need you to take care of yourselves during this time, because we in turn need you to continue taking care of everyone we support.

My mantra for tough times is as follows. May we be full of loving kindness. May we be well, May we be peaceful and at ease. May we be happy.

On behalf of Peter and myself and the whole team, thank you for being partners in this critical work.

Sincerely,



Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner
Department of Developmental Services