



State of Connecticut  
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont  
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff  
Commissioner

Peter Mason  
Deputy Commissioner

**To:** DDS Providers

**From:** Jordan A. Scheff, Commissioner

**Cc:** Peter Mason, Deputy Commissioner; Katie Rock-Burns, Chief of Staff; David David, Director of Service Development and Support; Ken Cabral, Director of Family Services Strategy; Amber Burke, Director of Employment and Day Services

**Date:** August 5, 2020

**RE:** Employment and Day Reopening Phases- UPDATE

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After reviewing the most recent data, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has decided to *extend phase 1 of the reopening of Employment and Day Services through September 30, 2020*. While Connecticut, is doing well to contain the virus and limit the spread, other states, including our neighbors, have seen an increase in confirmed COVID-19 cases. In addition, DDS has seen slightly increased case reporting in the last two weeks. Out of an abundance of caution, and to ensure that we understand the health impact of reopening employment and day services before moving forward, DDS believes it is prudent to remain in phase 1, with the guidance set forth in the [June 10, 2020](#) DDS Employment and Day Services Reopening memo.

The department recognizes that several people we support, their families, case managers, as well as providers remain concerned about exposure and have made the difficult decision not to return to employment or day services. We continue to encourage our employment and day provider community to work with teams to provide services that meet the needs of the person during the pandemic and continue to work creatively to maintain the health and safety of individuals and staff. It is important that this work continues and that the teams remain committed to regularly reevaluating when a person may be ready to return to their employment or day service program.

In phase 1, DDS set the capacity benchmark for people returning at 50%. DDS understands that providers have struggled to meet this benchmark. We ask that teams continue to work towards evaluating a safe return, as well as considering all alternatives to scheduling when making these difficult decisions. While we are extending Phase 1 through September, employment and day providers may go beyond the 50% benchmark if they feel that they can increase census while maintaining a healthy and safe environment.

The department appreciates the ongoing efforts by all our qualified providers during this extraordinarily challenging time. DDS continues to analyze COVID-19 related data across the agency, the state and across the country to influence our decision-making processes as we move forward.

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DDS will update providers mid-September regarding the next phase of reopening employment and day services. The fiscal details associated with this update are being provided separately in the memo titled Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021 Coronavirus Funding (revised 8.5.20).

Thank you.