



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

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Deputy Commissioner

To: DDS Qualified Providers

From: Jordan A. Scheff, Commissioner, Department of Developmental Services

CC: Peter Mason, Deputy Commissioner; Katie Rock-Burns, Chief of Staff; Scott McWilliams, Chief Fiscal Officer; Regional Directors; Private Assistant Regional Directors

Date: November 10, 2020

Subject: Update on Employment and Day Program Operations

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has received several questions regarding the operation of programs, in particular Employment and Day programs, as we move into winter. Although COVID-19 cases are increasing across the state, there are some realities that separate this time from our experience last spring:

1. We know more about how the virus spreads and, therefore, how to stop the spread.
2. We have a robust state contact tracing program.
3. We have more adequate and appropriate PPE.
4. We have more testing and a growing understanding of how to leverage it.

Based on where the state is today, these factors should be considered in operational decisions. DDS expects that providers will continue to make person-centered and team-based decisions on individual engagement in on-site employment and day programs, wherever possible. In order to support provider and team decision-making on individual participation, DDS is sharing the following key metrics, which may be considered:

- [Average Daily Rate of COVID-19 Cases per 100,00 by Town](#): this map identifies state-labeled “red alert,” moderate, and low risk towns based on average case rate per 100,000 of the population over a two week period. This map is updated by the Governor’s office every Thursday afternoon.
- [CT School Learning Model Indicators](#): this summary, originally developed to support district-level decision-making around school learning models, contains multiple key metrics. It includes consideration of the following two week averages: case rate per 100,000, percent test positivity, COVID-19 hospitalizations per 100,000, and COVID-like and Influenza-like Illness Syndromic Surveillance. This summary is updated every Thursday afternoon.

Additional considerations may include: individual medical risk, individual tolerance of protective PPE, risk factors in the residential setting, and others.

This comprises the best information the department has at this time. As always, it is subject to change, as the landscape of the pandemic in the state continues to shift. We thank you for your ongoing dedication and partnership.