



Date: April 30, 2020

To: All DD Waiver, Mi Via Waiver, and State General Fund Providers

From: Scott Doan, Deputy Director 
Developmental Disabilities Supports Division

Through: Jason Cornwell, Acting Deputy Secretary 
New Mexico Department of Health

Subject: Face Mask Mandate for DD Waiver, Mi Via Waiver, and State General Fund Services

In an effort to stop or slow the spread of COVID-19 and to assure the health and safety of individuals receiving services and to protect the frontline Direct Support Professionals (DSP), **effective immediately, the Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) is mandating that all DSPs wear a face mask at all times during their scheduled shift.** This mandate applies to all DD Waiver, Mi Via Waiver, and State General Fund Direct Support Professionals working in the home.

The only exception to this rule is for paid family members, wearing a mask in their own home is at their discretion. However, any outside Direct Support Professional entering the home must always wear a mask during their scheduled shift. For example, this would include any Substitute Care or Customized Community Supports DSP entering the home, these DSP must wear a mask when delivering the service.

The following are acceptable forms of masks to be worn by Direct Support Professionals:

- Cloth Mask
- Homemade Cloth Mask
- Basic Medical Mask
- N95 Mask

DDSD expects full and immediate compliance with this directive. Furthermore, DDSD expects that each Provider agency supply DSPs with masks to wear on shift. Each Provider must also supply the DSP with the proper sanitation guidelines for the use and re-use of masks. Please follow the CDC guidance at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/face-masks.html>.

For those Provider agencies in need of face masks or personal protective equipment (PPE) please follow the guidance issued in DDS D COVID-19 response memo #13 on how to order PPE utilizing the Resource Request 213 Form. You can locate the DDS D memos at the following website: <https://nmhealth.org/about/dds/d/iro/ddcv/>

Additional information on infection control, use of universal masks in the health care setting, and how to make a cloth face mask can be found at the following CDC links:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Finfection-control%2Fcontrol-recommendations.html

<https://www.jointcommission.org/-/media/tjc/documents/resources/patient-safety-topics/infection-prevention-and-hai/covid19/universal-masking-statement-04232020.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

If you have questions, please contact your respective Regional Director.