

Date: 5/7/2020

DDSD COVID-19 Response Memo #15

From: Jason Cornwell, Acting DOH Deputy Secretary  
To: All DDSD Waiver Providers and Stakeholders:



As we grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, I would like to continue to communicate the most recent response plans that impact recipients of the DD Waiver, Mi Via Waiver, and Medically Fragile Waiver and Stakeholders:

1. DDSD COVID-19 testing for individuals receiving DD Waiver, Mi Via Waiver, and SGF services through May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020:

	Total Tests	Positive Tests	COVID 19 Related Deaths
DD Waiver	87	8	3
Mi Via Waiver	1	1	0
State General Fund	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>

2. Department of Health Secretary Kathy Kunkel amended the state Public Health Emergency Order clarifying steps businesses must take in order to operate.
  - Effective Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, all large grocery and large retail spaces (those greater than 50,000 square feet in size) and all restaurants currently operating curbside and delivery service will be required to ensure that all employees have at least cloth face coverings.
  - All employees must wear face coverings in the workplace at all times when in the presence of others.
  - Effective Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, all essential businesses of any size currently operating under the Public Health Order must also comply with the face covering requirement.
  - All employers are strongly encouraged to acquire the face coverings for all employees over the next week, in preparation for a potential Phase One reopening in mid-May. Otherwise they may not be able to operate in compliance with state requirements.
  - Retailers will not be required to provide face coverings for customers but are encouraged to post signage strongly encouraging customers to wear their own masks. Retailers at their own discretion may require customers to wear masks.
  - Also, attached to this memo is a listing of COVID-Safe practices for all employers.
3. Attached is a user friendly Do It Yourself (DIY) document on how to make, wear, and clean cloth face coverings. As an additional resource, please go to the following link at the CDC on how to properly use cloth face coverings

<file:///C:/Users/scott.doan/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/BAR>

[7ZNMH/Use%20Cloth%20Face%20Coverings%20to%20Help%20Slow%20Spread%20 %20CDC%20\(002\).html](https://www.nmhealth.org/7ZNMH/Use%20Cloth%20Face%20Coverings%20to%20Help%20Slow%20Spread%20%20CDC%20(002).html)

4. Please see the attached Board of Pharmacy notice regarding the visitation schedule during the COVID-19 state of emergency. The original notice was issued March 16, 2020; the notice was extended on April 8, 2020.
5. The following are additional points of clarification regarding the Appendix K approval for Assistive Technology and the Prior Authorization process.
  - Expansion of Assistive Technology (AT) in Appendix K due to COVID 19 telehealth needs only applies to the DD Waiver program.
  - The Human Services Department and Department of Health have determined that the current prior authorization process is adequate and that suspending requirements is not necessary or efficient at this time. **Therefore, prior authorization remains a requirement so that providers can bill for services.** Providers will be notified of any updates to prior authorization requirements related to the Emergency Preparedness and Response Appendix K.
  - When a provider bills the retainer payment, they bill using the normal process and code. The 80% payment will be calculated and adjusted by the provider. The provider will enter the calculated retainer rate on to the claim (DDW/MFW), or on the Request for Payment (RFP)/Timesheet (employees/vendors under Mi Via).
6. Please see the attached joint memo from the New Mexico Human Services Department, Department of Health, and Aging and Long-Term Services Department regarding the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA); Coverage of COVID-19 Testing for Uninsured Patients. The purpose of this supplement is to provide billing and reimbursement information and guidance to health care providers that are performing COVID-19 testing or testing-related services to uninsured patients. In accordance with Special COVID-19 Supplement #2: Medicaid Coverage of COVID-19 Testing for All Uninsured, charging cost-sharing for diagnostic testing and related testing services is not allowed for New Mexico patients. No health insurance plan in New Mexico may charge patient co-pays, deductibles or coinsurance for COVID-19 diagnostic testing services; and no provider, test site or lab may bill any New Mexico patient for any portion of the cost of testing for COVID-19.
7. Attached is additional guidance from DDS on reporting COVID-19 events using General Events Reports (GER) in Therap. If you have questions regarding this memo, please contact Kathy Baker, Statewide Therap Administrator, at [kathy.baker@state.nm.us](mailto:kathy.baker@state.nm.us).
8. Resource Website: <https://nmhealth.org/about/ddsd/diro/ddcv/>
9. Should I be Tested? <https://cv.nmhealth.org/should-i-get-tested/>
10. Test Portal: <https://cvresults.nmhealth.org/>
11. HSD Portal Page: <https://nmmedicaid.portal.conduent.com/static/covid.htm>
12. New Mexico Healthcare Worker and First Responder Support Line **1-855-507-5509**



Lastly, should stakeholders have specific questions, concerns, and/or scenarios, please contact your Regional Director. The COVID 19 situation is fluid and will evolve; additional guidance will be provided accordingly.