

Date: 6/11/2020

DDSD COVID-19 Response Memo #20



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 June 10th, 2020:

	Total Tests	Number of Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19	COVID 19 Related Deaths
DD Waiver	252	16	5
Mi Via Waiver	1	1	0
State General Fund	4	0	0
Medically Fragile Waiver		0	0
Totals	257	17	5

2. **DDSD Re-Opening Committee:** DDSD continues to address the need for guidance about re-opening services. DDSD's Re-Opening Committee held a listening session on Friday June 5th with Advocacy Partners, representing a diverse group of more than 50 stakeholders and partners including individuals, parents, guardians, advocates, providers (residential, day, case management, and therapy) and other state agencies. This group will meet again on June 19th.

Key interests and concerns expressed at the meeting include: communicating guidance to individuals and families; "hybrid approach" to day services that considers continuation of day services in the home and in the community using COVID-Safe Practices; requirements for providing internet as a utility and requirements for telehealth as a service; effective use of IDT meetings; need for continuation of therapy services; in-person visit requirements; and testing for individuals and DSPs as well as for other providers who enter the home. Additional recommendations for guidance included practical and effective use of masks and face coverings and requirements for home visitation. DDSD's work is divided into the following program-specific areas: Residential, Employment and Day, Behavior Supports and Therapies (PT/OT/SLP), Nutrition and Nursing, Case Management and Consulting, Training and the Family Infant Toddler Program.

3. **Trends in COVID-19 and the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Population:** Recently published research shows that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and autism who live in residential homes are shown to contract COVID-19 at four times the rate of the general population and two times more likely to die from it once it is contracted. Two reasons explain the high death rates. People with developmental disabilities are more likely to have a pre-existing health condition and they are also more likely to live in settings with roommates and staff than elderly people. About 13-20% of people with developmental disabilities live in these settings compared to about 6% of people over 65. Additional information on this subject matter can be found at <https://apple.news/A7CkN6pGIsK6BiuDP66ZCw>
4. The State of New Mexico announced the online health insurance screening tool. Every New Mexican should have health care during the COVID-19 emergency. To help expedite that process there is a new online screening tool to help New Mexicans determine what health insurance coverage they may qualify for by answering a few simple questions. The online screening tool is available at New Mexico Health Coverage Connector (please see the attached announcement for more details).
5. **Great news from the DDSD Training Unit:** Two new online modules have been added to the DDSD online courses page; <http://www.cdd.unm.edu/other-disability-programs/disability-health-policy/ddsd-courses/index.html>
 1. Introduction to Person Centered Planning (PCP)
 2. ANE Awareness (*This ANE Awareness will replace the ANE refresher and the ANE recorded course*)
 - For compliance during COVID-19 the ANE Awareness will suffice for the first-time training requirement. If you need the ANE refresher you will now take ANE Awareness. Participants will still have an opportunity to take the ANE live streaming course.
 - DDSD will be providing full credit for people who have taken the ANE refresher during COVID-19, so participants will not be required to go back and take this course until next year.
 - On another note the free live streaming courses with ARCA will end on June 30, 2020. You may take live streaming courses with ARCA or any other agency for a nominal fee. <https://ddsctrain.cdd.unm.edu/Calendar.aspx>
6. Resource Website: <https://nmhealth.org/about/ddsd/diro/ddcv/>
7. Should I be Tested? <https://cv.nmhealth.org/should-i-get-tested/>
8. Test Portal: <https://cvresults.nmhealth.org/>
9. HSD Portal Page: <https://nmmedicaid.portal.conduent.com/static/covid.htm>
10. New Mexico Crisis Line 855-NMCRISIS **1-855-662-7474**.
11. 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.