

Date: 6/25/2020

DDSD COVID-19 Response Memo #22

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, Medically Fragile Waiver, and SGF services through June 24th, 2020:

	Total Number of Individuals tested	Total Number of Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19	COVID 19 Related Deaths
DD Waiver	301	17	6
Mi Via Waiver	1	1	0
State General Fund	4	0	0
Medically Fragile Waiver		0	0
Totals	306	18	6

2. **DDSD Re-Opening Committee:** The DDSD Re-Opening Committee will be hosting its third meeting with Advocacy Partners on **Wednesday, July 1st from 1:00-3:00pm** to continue our conversation regarding the re-opening of services for DD Waiver, Mi Via Waiver, Medically Fragile Waiver, and State General Fund services.
3. **Retainer Payments:** Effective June 30th, 2020; retainer payments for DD Waiver and Mi Via Waiver services will be discontinued. DDSD's authorization from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) allowing retainer payments does not extend beyond June 30th, 2020. CMS plans to issue additional guidelines regarding criteria for continued approval of retainer payments. DDSD will issue information as it is received by CMS. Additionally, DDSD is developing a post payment review process for retainer payments which may include requests for the following items:
 - o FY2020 Quarter 4 financials including information on how 80% Retainer payments were utilized to maintain the agency.
 - o FY2021 Quarter 1 financials including information on how 80% Retainer payments were utilized to maintain the agency.

- FY2020 Quarter 3 and 4 personnel rosters.
- FY2021 Quarter 1 current personnel roster.
- Average attendance hours or amounts billed for the 3-6 months prior to March 15, 2020 for individuals who were billed for the 80% Retainer Payment.
- Billing for individuals that were provided service and the units and dollar amounts billed
- Average attendance hours or amounts billed for the 3-6 months prior to March 15, 2020 for individuals who were billed at 100% for services provided.
- Other funding sources applied for and received such as the Payment Protection Program, Small Business Relief Loans/Grants, and other CARES Act or other types of Federal/State funding that were offered as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- How other funding received as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic was utilized to maintain the agency.

4. **Updates from the DDS Training Unit:**

- The training unit has suspended compliance of training except ANE, AWMD, and individual specific training for the past three months. The division is giving until September 25, 2020 to get back into compliance with all DDS Core courses.
- For certified Abuse Neglect and Exploitation (ANE) trainer, the requirement is trainers must train this course at a minimum of one time per year. Trainers will have until December 31, 2020 to meet this requirement.
- The Assistance with Medication Delivery (AWMD) extension will run out on June 25, 2020. This training exception will be extended until July 31, 2020. On July 31, 2020 agencies must have all staff assisting with medication trained.
 - To meet this requirement, staff must complete the training (live streaming or recorded) **and** complete the on-site skills demonstration. Again, trainings will not be face-to-face unless the trainer and staff are already working regularly in the individual's home. Trainers and AWMD coaches will need to complete the on-site skills demonstration remotely.
- The AWMD courses (two day and recertification) are available through live stream and recorded on the New Mexico Waiver Training Hub, <https://ddsctrain.cdd.unm.edu/Calendar.aspx>
- For further guidance please see the attached AWMD module introduction.

5. Attached is a memo from the Clinical Services Bureau issuing guidance for individuals going to routine medical or dental appointments. If you have questions regarding this guidance, please contact Betsy Finley, Clinical Services Bureau Chief at elizabeth.finley@state.nm.us

6. **Internet services in Residential Settings:** On June 4, 2020, DDS issued COVID-19 Response Memo #19 that states *“Effective July 1st, 2020; DDS is requiring that Residential Providers (Supported Living, Intensive Medical Living, and Family Living) assure that all homes have internet capability. All Residential Providers must immediately initiate change to any internal practices or internal policies that cause barriers to internet access for the person in services and their support staff; changes must be completed no later than July 1, 2020.”* Beginning July 1st, 2020, the Division of Health Improvement, Quality Management Bureau will start monitoring for compliance of this new requirement. Attached is the Internet and Technology memo for your reference.

7. **Mi Via Waiver-40 Hour Per Week:** It has been brought to the attention of the Department of Health (DDSD) and the Human Service Department of the need to have a discussion regarding how forty (40) hours of service per week and the current Stay at Home Public Health Order is impacting individuals and their families receiving Mi Via Waiver services. DDSD and HSD recognize how this limit could become an issue should those employed have to self-quarantine due to COVID-19. DDSD and HSD are open to an exception of approving more than 40 hours per week on a case by case basis during this pandemic. In a joint effort, DDSD and HSD will approach the Mi Via Advisory Committee (MVAC) for feedback and guidance on these potential issues.
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 Crisis Line 855-NMCRISIS **1-855-662-7474**.
13. 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.