

Date: 7/16/2020

DDSD COVID-19 Response Memo #25

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, Medically Fragile Waiver, and State General Fund services to our Stakeholders:

1. DDSD COVID-19 testing for individuals receiving DD Waiver, Mi Via Waiver, Medically Fragile Waiver, and State General Fund services through July 15th, 2020:

	Total Number of Individuals tested	Total Number of Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19	COVID 19 Related Deaths
DD Waiver	428	22	6
Mi Via Waiver	4	4	0
State General Fund	4	0	0
Medically Fragile Waiver	11	0	0
Totals	447	26	6

2. **DDSD Re-Opening Committee:** The DDSD Re-Opening Committee will be hosting its fourth meeting with Advocacy Partners on Friday, **July 17th, 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. Attached is the amended Public Health Order signed by Department of Health Secretary, Kathy Kunkel. The Public Health Order is effective July 13, 2020 and remains in effect through July 30, 2020.
4. DDSD is seeking approval for the continuation of retainer payments from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to be effective July 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020. DDSD is seeking this approval through a third submission of Appendix K to CMS. DDSD will notify the field when a response (approval or denial) is received from CMS. Please see the attached document that further explains parameters of retainer payments:

- Upcoming guardrails (specific parameters) for retainer payments.
- Guardrails apply to the next round of retainer payments (7/1/2020-9/30/2020).

- CMS recognizes that requiring providers to pay 100% of wages may necessitate other funding streams and shall not be considered duplicate use.
5. Attached is updated guidance on requesting Assistive Technology (AT) through the DD Waiver. The deadline to submit budget revisions specific to AT has been extended to September 30th, 2020. If you have questions regarding this guidance please contact Marie Velasco, DD Waiver Program Manager at marie.velasco@state.nm.us
 6. **DD Waiver and Supports Waiver Allocations:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent Public Health Order, DD Waiver and Supports Waiver allocations have not yet been processed due to unanticipated delays in processing allocations. DDS D will issue approximately 190 DD Waiver and Mi Via Waiver allocations during the month of July 2020. DDS D has a target date of September 1, 2020 to mail Supports Waiver offer (allocations) letters.
 7. Resource Website: <https://nmhealth.org/about/ddsd/diro/ddcv/>
 8. Should I be Tested? <https://cv.nmhealth.org/should-i-get-tested/>
 9. Test Portal: <https://cvresults.nmhealth.org/>
 10. HSD Portal Page: <https://nmmedicaid.portal.conduent.com/static/covid.htm>
 11. New Mexico Crisis Line 1-855-NMCRISIS **1-855-662-7474**.
 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.