


Date: August 26, 2021

To: All DD Waiver, Mi Via Waiver, Medically Fragile Waiver, Supports Waiver, State General Fund Agencies and Stakeholders

From: Jason Cornwell, Director 
Developmental Disabilities Supports Division

Subject: Clarification regarding Remote Monitoring Visits, Interdisciplinary Team Meetings, and COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide further clarification on DDSD's directives regarding remote monitoring visits, interdisciplinary team meetings, and mandates for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Remote Monitoring Visits: As stated in the memo issued by DDSD on August 19, 2021; Effective August 20, 2021, DDSD is requiring that all face to face in person visits by DD Waiver Case Managers, Mi Via Waiver Consultants, Medically Fragile Waiver Case Managers, Supports Waiver Community Support Coordinators, Agency Service Coordinators and Supervisors, including State General Funded programs; **cease and revert to remote monitoring visits**. Remote visits must begin effective August 20, 2021, through September 30, 2021.

DDSD has received multiple questions from DD Waiver Case Managers asking if remote interdisciplinary team (IDT) meetings can be counted as a face-to-face visit. The DD Waiver Service Standards, page 79, allow for one IDT per quarter to be counted as a face-to-face contact. Since DDSD issued the directive not allowing DD Waiver Case Managers to complete in person face to face visits from August 20 through September 30, 2021, DDSD will allow DD Waiver Case Managers to count one remote IDT as a visit.

IDTs in person or remote: DDSD has received multiple questions asking if IDTs can be held in person or must they be held remotely. IDTs can be held in person or remotely based on the preference of the guardian and/or individual. If the IDT is held in person at a Congregate Care Facility or Community Home, all IDT members attending the meeting in these locations must be vaccinated.

COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate as per the Public Health Order issued on August 17th, 2021: As stated in the memo issued by DDSD on August 19, 2021 Pursuant to the Public Health Order issued on August 17, 2021, by Acting Department of Health Secretary, Dr. David Scrase, beginning Monday, August 23, 2021 *"All hospital workers, congregate care facility workers, and employees of the Office of the Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 unless they qualify for an exemption."*

DDSD has received multiple questions asking if the COVID-19 vaccine mandate applies to DD Waiver Case Managers, Mi Via Waiver Consultants, Medically Fragile Waiver Case Managers, and Supports Waiver Community Support Coordinators. As stated above, DDSD has directed that all in person face to face visits cease until at least September 30, 2021; monitoring visits must be completed remotely until September 30th, 2021. During this time, DD Waiver Case Managers, Mi Via Waiver Consultants,

Medically Fragile Waiver Case Managers, and Supports Waiver Community Support Coordinators are not required or mandated to receive the COVID-19 vaccine since they are not completing in person face to face visits. However, DDS fully anticipates returning to in person face to face visits in the future. When DDS announces the return to in person face to face monitoring visits, DD Waiver Case Managers, Mi Via Waiver Consultants, Medically Fragile Waiver Case Managers, and Supports Waiver Community Support Coordinators will be required to receive the COVID-19 vaccine before they can enter a Congregate Care Facility or Community Home.

Elimination of COVID-19 Vaccine Status question: Any paid employee and/or sub-contractor to include any Direct Support Professional, Therapist, Behavior Support Consultant, Nurse, Registered Dietician, agency Director, Administrative Assistant, Supervisor, Manager, etc. who render services within a Congregate Facility or Community home are expected to abide by the Public Health Order. Each agency is expected to monitor compliance with the COVID-19 vaccine mandate as outlined in the Public Health Order to include weekly monitoring of COVID-19 testing for those employees and/or sub-contractors who have been granted an exemption by their employer. Therefore, we have eliminated inquiry into vaccine status as part of any COVID-19 screening process. Any entity who violates the Public Health Order, is subject to civil administrative penalties available at law.

If you have questions, please contact the following DDS Staff:

- DD Waiver Program Manager, Marie Velasco (marie.velasco@state.nm.us)
- Mi Via Waiver Program Manager, Aaron Maestas (aaron.maestas@state.nm.us)
- Medically Fragile Waiver Program Manager, Iris Clevenger (iris.clevenger@state.nm.us)
- Supports Waiver Program Manager, Jennifer Roth (jennifer.roth@state.nm.us)
- State General Fund Program Manager, Juanita Salas (juanita.salas@state.nm.us)
- Regional Office Director
 - Metro: Michael Driskell (michael.driskell@state.nm.us)
 - NWRO: Michele Groblebe (michele.groblebe@state.nm.us)
 - NERO: Angela Pacheco (angela.pacheco@state.nm.us)
 - SERO: Michelle Lyon (michelle.lyon@state.nm.us)
 - SWRO: Angie Brooks (angie.brooks@state.nm.us)
- DDS Deputy Director, Scott Doan (scott.doan@state.nm.us)

Additional Resources:

- NM DOH COVID-19 Site: <https://cv.nmhealth.org/>
- DDS COVID-19 Site: <https://nmhealth.org/about/ddsd/diro/ddcv/>
- NM DOH COVID-19 Safe Practices: <https://cv.nmhealth.org/covid-safe-practices/>
- Report a Public Health Order Violation: <https://www.newmexico.gov/2020/03/25/how-to-report-non-compliance-within-a-business-a-violation-of-the-mass-gatherings-ban-or-other-violations-of-the-public-order/>
- NM DOH COVID-19 Vaccine General Information: <https://cv.nmhealth.org/covid-vaccine/>
- NM DOH COVID-19 Vaccine Site: <https://cvvaccine.nmhealth.org/>
- New Mexico Notify [NM Notify | Help New Mexico Stop The Spread](#)
- Vault COVID-19 Testing Resource learn.vaulthealth.com/nm/.

- COVID-19 testing at Curative sites, which can be located through the NMDOH website:
<https://findatestnm.org/>
- New Mexico Crisis and Access Line | www.nmcrisisline.com
Crisis and Access Line | 1-855-NMCRISIS | 1-855-662-7474
Peer-to-Peer Warmline | 1-855-4NM-7100 | 1-855-466-7100
Healthcare Worker and First Responder Support Line | 1-855-507-5509



Do you want to pre-register for your COVID-19 Vaccine?

Visit cvvaccine.nmhealth.org to register today.