


Date: September 15, 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: Remote Monitoring Visits extended through November 30, 2021

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DDSD continues to monitor the impact COVID-19 is having on individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Due to the continued increase in cases related to the Delta variant and to further mitigate the spread of COVID-19; DDSD is extending remote visits through November 30, 2021. If your agency provides services on Tribal lands, please be aware of additional or different Public Health Order requirements based on Tribal jurisdiction.

**Remote Monitoring Visits:** DDSD is requiring that all 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 to continue with remote monitoring visits through November 30, 2021.

As with previous guidance issued on August 26, 2021. 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 effective August 20, 2021, and have now extended through November 30, 2021, DDSD will allow DD Waiver Case Managers to count one remote IDT per quarter as a visit (face to face contact).

**IDTs in person or remote:** 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 (defined any facility based Day or Employment service offered within any of the DD Waiver, Mi Via Waiver, Medically Fragile Waiver, Supports Waiver, or State General Funded programs) or Community Home (defined as DD Waiver Supported Living, Intensive Medical Living Services, and State General Funded residential homes), IDT members attending meetings in person in these locations must be vaccinated unless they have received an exemption from their employer and submit to weekly COVID-19 testing with negative tests results.

**Therapists (OT, PT, SLP)** can continue to conduct clinical sessions/visits/assessments in the home, community, or remotely at the discretion and approval of the individual and/or their guardian. The preference or convenience of the individual therapist or agency will not be the determining factor as to how the service is delivered.

**Nurses and Registered Dieticians/Licensed Nutritionists** can continue to complete clinical visits/assessments in the home, community, or remotely at the discretion and approval of the individual and/or their guardian. Nurse Case Managers can continue in home assessments at the discretion and

approval of the individual and/or guardian. The preference or convenience of the individual nurse, dietician/nutritionist or agency will not be the determining factor as to how the service is delivered.

**Behavior Support Consultants** can continue to conduct clinical sessions/visits/assessments in the home, community, or remotely at the discretion and approval of the individual and/or their guardian. The preference or convenience of the individual behavior support consultant or agency will not be the determining factor as to how the service is delivered.

Any Nurse, RD/LD, Therapist or BSC who is in quarantine awaiting COVID-19 test results or who has tested positive but feel able to work from home, may contact the person/guardian and request to work remotely until negative test results are received or until cleared to return to work. Employers shall adhere to the return to work following quarantine guidance as outlined in the New Mexico Department of Health Polices for the Prevention and Control of COVID-19 in New Mexico [EPI-COVID19-Containment-Policies-8.30.2021.pdf \(nmhealth.org\)](https://www.nmhealth.org/files/2021/08/EPI-COVID19-Containment-Policies-8.30.2021.pdf)

**DDSD Jackson 11a (Nurses) and 11b (Bureau of Behavioral Support)** will continue to complete in person face to face visits with Jackson Class Members and provider agencies.

**Congregate Facility Reopening Plans** amendments to congregate facility reopening plans may be submitted to Regional Office Directors. Day services can continue to be provided, with an approved reopening plan in a congregate facility, in the individual's home, remotely and in the community.

#### **Public Health Orders:**

Each agency is expected to monitor compliance with the COVID-19 indoor mask mandate and vaccine mandate as outlined in the Public Health Orders to include weekly monitoring of COVID-19 testing for those employees and/or sub-contractors who have been granted an exemption by their employer. 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 DDSD Staff:

- DD Waiver Program Manager, Marie Velasco ([marie.velasco@state.nm.us](mailto:marie.velasco@state.nm.us))
- Mi Via Waiver Program Manager, Aaron Maestas ([aaron.maestas@state.nm.us](mailto:aaron.maestas@state.nm.us))
- Medically Fragile Waiver Program Manager, Iris Clevenger ([iris.clevenger@state.nm.us](mailto:iris.clevenger@state.nm.us))
- Supports Waiver Program Manager, Jennifer Roth ([jennifer.roth@state.nm.us](mailto:jennifer.roth@state.nm.us))
- State General Fund Program Manager, Juanita Salas ([juanita.salas@state.nm.us](mailto:juanita.salas@state.nm.us))
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  - SWRO: Angie Brooks ([angie.brooks@state.nm.us](mailto:angie.brooks@state.nm.us))
- DDSD Deputy Director, Scott Doan ([scott.doan@state.nm.us](mailto:scott.doan@state.nm.us))

#### **Additional Resources:**

- NM DOH COVID-19 Site: <https://cv.nmhealth.org/>
- DDSD 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/](https://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](http://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](https://cvvaccine.nmhealth.org) to register today.