Office of Developmental Programs
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update
for Individuals and Families

March 27, 2020
Kristin Ahrens, Deputy Secretary

Everyone has a responsibility to slow the spread

Everyone should behave like they could spread COVID-19 to someone else!
Governor Wolf Executive Orders – Prohibitions on Non-Life Sustaining Businesses and Shelter-in Place

- **ODP home and community based service and intermediate care facility providers considered life-sustaining and therefore exempt from the Governor’s directive asking for the closure of all non-essential businesses.**
- ODP required shifts in operations, closure of CPS facilities and suspension of community integration activities, mean all allowable service provision is essential.
- **All remaining ID/A services must be provided in alignment with ODP instruction and Governor’s Orders.**

ODP’s Approach

1. Slow the spread of the virus
2. Use trained direct support professionals where needed most
3. Long term stability of community system
4. Resources and communication
Emergency Preparedness and Response

Waiver Changes
• ODP submitted emergency amendments to the Consolidated, P/FDS, Community Living and Adult Autism Waivers.
• Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) CMS approved all emergency applications on 3/18/2020

Regulatory Changes
• ODP is working on suspensions, partial suspensions of numerous related regulations to ensure providers can respond appropriately to the emergency

Slow the Spread
Statewide Suspension of Activities

- Supports Coordination remotely or by telephone

- Limitation of visitors in residential programs

- Community Participation Supports/Day Habilitation – suspend requirements for support in community locations

- Closure of facilities providing Community Participation Support (Older Adult Day, Adult Training, Prevocational)

- Annual licensing requirement for physicals for staff and participants is suspended.

Statewide Suspension of Activities

- Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) and PA Supplement Assessments

- Quality Assessment and Improvement (QA&I) Provider and SCO Corrective Action Plans (CAPS) and Directive Corrective Action Plans (DCAPS) activities (unless otherwise instructed by ODP or the Administrative Entity)

- Communication Assessments and Reassessments related to the Harry M Settlement


- Independent Monitoring for Quality (IM4Q) interviews
Individual Rights

During the COVID-19 response, the following rights may be limited:

• Visitors
• Sharing a bedroom
• Access to community

Visitation Policy Changes

• Long Term Care Facility (LTCF) Visitation Guidance from CMS and the Centers for Disease Control
• Non-medically necessary visits may be restricted
• Providers must
  – Comply with Governor’s Executive Orders,
  – Comply with ODP instruction and
  – *exercise decision-making based on risk to each individual in each home*
• Providers must make every effort to support contact and relationships between individuals, friends, family
  – Using telephone or video technology
  – Mail, recordings, etc
  – Contact through barriers
Delivering ID/A Services Remotely Or By Phone

- Other direct ID/A waiver services may be delivered remotely when this type of support meets the health and safety needs of the participant.

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Services Not in Current Waivers That Will Be Added To Be Delivered Remotely Or By Phone

- It is OK to render these services remotely or by phone now if this type of support meets the health and safety needs of the participant.

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Use Direct Support Professionals Where Needed Most

Where Direct Support Professionals Will be Needed Most

- Residential
- Family caregivers – who fall ill, are essential workers in healthcare, first responders, human services
- In response to infections, need for isolation, quarantine
- Support in hospital settings
Supporting Individuals Through the Emergency

- P/FDS and Community Living caps may be temporarily exceeded to provide emergency care provision.
- When the emergency is declared to end, utilization of services for individuals must return to the frequency and duration as authorized prior to the emergency.
- Direct Support Professionals may support a person in a hospital setting.

Temporary Relocations

- Family may bring your family member home during the emergency
  - No loss of waiver
  - No loss of the community home
  - Provider may choose to accept the return of your family member only after the emergency.
- Providers may need to relocate your family member for quarantine, isolation or to ensure staffing.
Expand Services That Relatives and Legal Guardians Can Provide During Emergency

• Residential Habilitation
• Supported Living (ID/A Waivers only)
• Supplemental Habilitation/Temporary Supplemental Services

When one of these services is rendered by relatives or legally responsible individuals, the provider agency authorized to render the Residential Habilitation, Supported Living or Supplemental Habilitation/Temporary Supplemental Services, is responsible for ensuring that services are provided as authorized in the ISP and that billing occurs in accordance with ODP requirements.

Flexibility to Meet Staffing Needs in Residential

• Staff qualifications
• Size of location
• Staffing ratios
• Supplemental Habilitation/Temporary Supplemental services
• Shift Nursing
• Location
Flexibility in In-Home and Community and Companion (including for Participant-Directed Services)

- Suspend 40/60 rules related to overtime and provision of services by relatives
- May be provided remotely where health and safety can be ensured

Focus on Wellness During The Emergency

- Supports Coordinators asked to implement wellness checks
- Community Participation Support providers have been asked to provide support/structured activities/remote
- Remote behavior support is available – discuss with Supports Coordinator
- Resources on MyODP and ASERT websites
Long Term Stability of Community System

Supporting Provider Financially and Long Term Stability of Community System

- Retainer Payments for CPS/Day Habilitation Providers
- Increased rates
Resources and Communication

Communication with Stakeholders

• Frequent guidance and webinars
• Dedicated COVID19 page housing all guidance and webinars – MyODP.org
• ASERT resource pages for individuals and families
• Routine stakeholders calls for feedback
• Provider survey tool for critical service change information
• Self-advocate and family calls/webinars
Emergency warning signs for COVID-19

• If you develop emergency warning signs for COVID-19 get medical attention immediately. Emergency warning signs include:
  – Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
  – Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
  – New confusion or inability to arouse
  – Bluish lips or face

• *This list is not all inclusive.

Resources


https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx

https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/Coronavirus-2020.aspx