



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

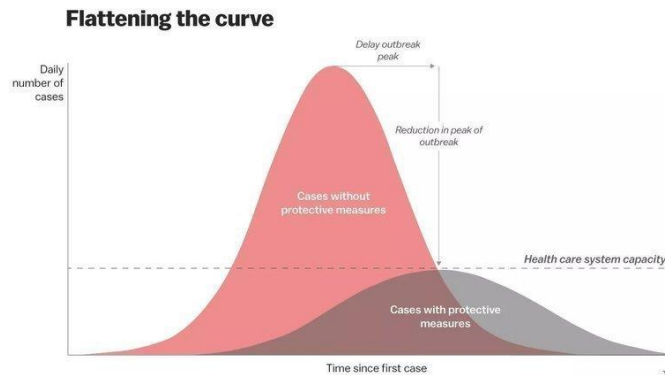
March 27, 2020

Kristin Ahrens, Deputy Secretary

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## Everyone has a responsibility to slow the spread



**Everyone should behave like they could spread  
COVID-19 to someone else!**

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## **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.***

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## **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**

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## **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

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## **Slow the Spread**

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### **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.

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### **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
- Annual licensing inspections as specified at 55 Pa.Code § 20.31. (relating to Annual Inspection).
- Independent Monitoring for Quality (IM4Q) interviews

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## Individual Rights

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

- Visitors
- Sharing a bedroom
- Access to community

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## 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

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## 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.



Appendix K	Waivers
In-Home and Community Support	Residential Habilitation
Companion	Life Sharing
Behavioral Support	Supported Living
Supports Broker	Assistive Technology (Remote Monitoring)
Education Support	Advanced Supported Employment

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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

ID/A Waivers	Adult Autism Waiver
Supported Employment	Supported Employment
Small Group Employment	Small Group Employment
Community Participation Support	Day Habilitation
Therapy Services	Career Planning
Communication Specialist	
Music and Art Therapy	

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## Use Direct Support Professionals Where Needed Most

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### 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

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## 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



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## 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

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### **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.

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### **Flexibility to Meet Staffing Needs in Residential**

- Staff qualifications
- Size of location
- Staffing ratios
- Supplemental Habilitation/Temporary Supplemental services
- Shift Nursing
- Location

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## **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

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## **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

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## **Long Term Stability of Community System**

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## **Supporting Provider Financially and Long Term Stability of Community System**

- Retainer Payments for CPS/Day Habilitation Providers
- Increased rates

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## Resources and Communication

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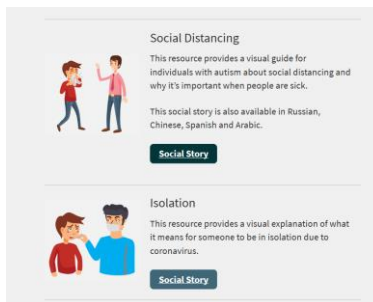
### Communication with Stakeholders

- 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



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[www.Paautism.org](http://www.Paautism.org)

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[www.MyODP.org](http://www.MyODP.org)

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## 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.

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## Resources



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>



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



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



<https://www.myodp.org/mod/page/view.php?id=26808>

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