Division Update for Individuals, Families, and Providers

February 24, 2022
NJMentalHealthCares

If you’re concerned about your mental health or the mental health of someone you love, **NJMentalHealthCares** can help. The **free helpline** offers telephone counseling, emotional support, information and assistance.

866-202-HELP (4357)
7 days per week, 8am - 8pm

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NJ DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Agenda

- COVID-19 Statistics
- March Webinar
- Office of Education on Self-Directed Services
- DSP Competency and Capacity Building Steering Committee
- Support Coordination Return To Field
- Reminder - Executive Order 283
- Resources
New Jersey COVID-19 Current Statistics*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State of New Jersey</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>1,866,365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>29,771</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This update is as of Wednesday, February 23, 2022.

For regular updates: [https://covid19.nj.gov/](https://covid19.nj.gov/)

Consider downloading COVID Alert NJ on your Apple or Android smartphone: [https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/app](https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/app)
DDD Specific COVID-19 Statistics*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Developmental Centers</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Licensed</td>
<td>Own Home</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>3,225</td>
<td>1,325</td>
<td>5,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>253</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*DDD-specific statistics are updated weekly. Community data includes individuals actively under DDD services in settings such as group homes, supervised apartments, out of state, and own-home settings.

Full detail, including data for individuals not under services for whom reporting is voluntary and provided for informational purposes only, can be found at [NJ Department of Human Services COVID-19 Information](https://nj.gov/humanServices/covid-19-information).
COVID-19 Update Webinar Schedule

• March Update Webinar:
  • Thursday March 24, 2022 – 10:30 am
• Register for the March Webinar
Office of Education on Self-Directed Services

• The Division recognizes that understanding Self-Directed Services/Self-Direction is important and is pleased to announce the launch of the Office of Education on Self-Directed Services.

• The Office stands ready to provide education and training on this important topic so that informed choices can be made.

• The website for this new Office can be found here.
Office of Education on Self-Directed Services

- The Division has also updated its Self-Directed Services/Self Direction website.
- The update is designed to offer a more streamlined experience for those who elect to self-direct services or are seeking more information about it.
- The site includes information on the different self-directed employee models, Supports Brokerage, and the new Office of Education on Self-Directed Services.
DSP Competency and Capacity Building Steering Committee

- This time-limited stakeholder committee will be charged with the review and adoption of a core set of competencies based on nationally recognized competency and skill sets.
- This will aid in the development of a training framework which will include mandatory pre-service training, initial onboarding training; ongoing professional development; and opportunities to specialize in specific skill areas that will be established to create a career pathway/DSP certificate program for the State of New Jersey.
DSP Competency and Capacity Building Steering Committee

- Membership has been finalized and includes:
  - Individuals with disabilities;
  - Family members of persons with disabilities;
  - The NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities;
  - Autism New Jersey;
  - Disability Rights New Jersey;
  - Ombudsman for Individuals with IDD and their Families;
  - An Academic Organization;
  - Service Providers; and
  - Support Coordination Agencies.

- First committee meeting will occur in March.
Updated Support Coordinator Return to Field Guidance

• The requirement for face-to-face visits by Support Coordinators (SCs) was suspended in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

• This is a reminder that face-to-face visits for Support Coordinators are to resume starting in March 2022 as outlined in Support Coordinator Field Visits.
Updated Support Coordinator Return to Field Guidance

• The Division assures all individuals and families that Support Coordinators, Staff in Licensed Residential and Certified Day settings are required to comply with Executive Order No. 283, Executive Order 252 and Executive Directive No. 21-011.

• This requires them to be at least two weeks past having completed their primary vaccine series and up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccinations (including booster).

• Employers may consider exemptions as applicable.

• Daily screening for COVID-19, as well as masking requirements, remain in place.
Reminder - Executive Order 283

• On January 19, 2022, Executive Order No. 283 went into effect requiring covered workers at health care facilities and high-risk congregate settings to be up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccination, including booster dose.

• This impacts many settings, including but not limited to:
  • Developmental Centers;
  • Licensed community residences for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI) (e.g., group homes and supervised apartments);
  • Certified day programs for individuals with I/DD and TBI; and
  • Support Coordination Agencies.
Reminder - Executive Order 283

- Unvaccinated workers in Licensed community residences for individuals with I/DD or TBI; Certified day programs for individuals with I/DD or TBI; and Support Coordination Agencies had/have until:
  - February 16, 2022 to receive their first dose of the primary series of COVID-19 vaccine.
  - March 30, 2022 to provide adequate proof that they are up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccinations, including booster.
  - Staff who become eligible for a booster after March 30, 2022 have until three weeks after they are eligible for a booster to receive it.
Executive Order 283

- A covered worker may be granted an exemption by their employer for a qualifying medical disability as defined by the ADA or sincerely held religious belief pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.
  - Covered workers granted an exemption must continue to be tested once or twice weekly as required by Executive Order No. 252.
- Masking continues to be required for staff, regardless of vaccination status.
Important Resources

- **Disability Rights New Jersey**
  - 1-800-922-7233 (toll-free in New Jersey only)

- **Ombudsman for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and their Families**
  - 1-609-984-7764

- **New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities**
  - 1-800-792-8858
Important Resources

• For assistance during this time:
  • For issues, call the Division Community Services office for your county or 1 (800) 832-9173.
  • For routine questions: DDD.FeeForService@dhs.nj.gov
  • For COVID-related questions: DDD.COVID-19@dhs.nj.gov
  • To report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation: call 1 (800) 832-9173, then press 1.
Highlighted Resources

• For individuals, families and caregivers
  • Boggs Center COVID-19 Information and Resources
  • COVID-19 Materials for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Care Providers

• For individuals:
  • NJ Self-Advocacy Project’s Stay Healthy at Home Webinar Series

• For Direct Support Professionals
  • National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) COVID-19 Toolkit for DSPs
  • CDC Guidance for Direct Service Providers