

The New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of Developmental Disabilities

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CORONAVIRUS DISEASE
(COVID-19)

UPDATE FOR FAMILIES AND
PROVIDERS

October 14, 2021



Agenda

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- COVID-19 Statistics
- November Webinar
- Executive Order 252 and Support Coordination Agencies
- Executive Directive 21-011
- Day Services Funding Increases
- Voting
- Fight the Flu!
- Resources

New Jersey COVID-19 Current Statistics*

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State of New Jersey	
Positive	1,019,945
Deaths	24,821

**This update is as of Tuesday, October 12, 2021.*

For regular updates: <https://covid19.nj.gov/>

Consider downloading COVID Alert NJ on your Apple or Android smartphone:

<https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/app>



DDD Specific COVID-19 Statistics*

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	Community		Developmental Centers	Total
	Licensed	Own Home		
Positive	1,990	724	705	3,419
Deaths	117	62	41	220

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](#).

COVID-19 Update Webinar Schedule

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- November Update webinar:
 - **Wednesday, November 17, 2021 – 10:30 am**
- [Register for the November Webinar](#)

Executive Order 252 and SCAs

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- On August 6, 2021, the Murphy Administration issued [Executive Order 252](#).
- This Order requires that staff working in targeted high-risk congregate settings be vaccinated or submit to COVID-19 testing once or twice weekly.
- Division policy on [Support Coordinator Field Visits](#) projects that on January 1, 2022, Support Coordinators will be returning to face-to-face visits which will require them to complete work in covered settings as well as family homes.

Executive Order 252 and SCAs

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- The Division will require Support Coordination Agencies to come into compliance with this Order by Thursday, November 18, 2021 (See [COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements for Support Coordination Agencies](#)).
 - Covered Division settings now include:
 - ✦ Licensed Community Residences for persons with IDD;
 - ✦ Certified Day Programs for persons with IDD; **and**
 - ✦ **Support Coordination Agencies.**
 - Covered Workers in these settings are:
 - ✦ Employees, both full-time and part-time, contractors, and other staff working in the covered setting, including those providing operational or custodial services or administrative support.

Executive Order 252

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- Covered settings must:
 - Comport with all federal and state laws, including but not limited to the Americans with Disabilities Act, that regulate the collection and storage of vaccination information for covered workers.
- Please note:
 - A covered setting has the ability to institute a vaccination or testing policy for staff that includes additional or stricter requirements, so long as such policy comports with the minimum requirements of this Order.
 - A covered setting may also maintain a policy that requires more frequent testing of covered workers.

Executive Order 252

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- Unvaccinated covered workers:
 - Must undergo testing at minimum one to two times each week.
 - If testing is not provided by the covered setting, unvaccinated covered worker must submit proof of either an antigen or molecular test.
 - If testing is provided by the covered setting (this is not required), the covered setting may similarly elect to administer or provide access to either an antigen or molecular test.
 - If covered worker is not working during a week where testing would be required, testing is not required for that week.

Executive Directive 21-011

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- On October 7, 2021, the New Jersey Department of Health released Executive Directive No. 21-011 – Protocols for COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Reporting for Covered Settings Pursuant to Executive Order Nos. 252, 253, and 264.
- This provides additional guidance to EO 252.
- Highlights (Read full document for detail):
 - Clarifies that unvaccinated covered workers who have tested positive and recovered from COVID-19 within the past 90 days do not need to get tested following exposure unless the person develops symptoms.

Executive Directive 21-011

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- Covered settings must maintain, at a minimum, the following documentation:
 - ✦ That covered workers who have not submitted proof that they are fully vaccinated were provided education on the benefits and risks of COVID-19 vaccination;
 - ✦ That covered workers who have not submitted proof that they are fully vaccinated were offered the COVID-19 vaccine and/or information on how to be vaccinated;
 - ✦ That covered workers who have not submitted proof that they are fully vaccinated were offered COVID-19 testing and/or information on how to obtain it.

Executive Directive 21-011

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- Each covered setting shall complete a *COVID-19 Immunization Status Report* weekly and submit it to the NJ DOH upon request. This report shall include:
 - ✦ Identifying information for the covered setting;
 - ✦ Total population: Number of covered workers;
 - ✦ Vaccination participation: Number of covered workers who are fully vaccinated;
 - ✦ Testing Participation: Number of covered workers who are submitting to once weekly testing **and** Number of covered workers who are submitting to twice weekly testing;
 - ✦ Non-Compliance: Number of covered workers who are not in compliance **and** Actions taken by the covered setting to address non-compliance.

Executive Directive 21-011

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- Covered settings should base their testing frequency on the extent of the virus in the community, and should, therefore, use the regional positivity rate reported in the COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI) Weekly Report: <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/statistics/covid/>, in the prior week as follows:

Regional CALI Level	Regional Percent Positivity Rate in the Past Week	Minimum Testing Frequency
Low (Green)	<3%	Once a week
Moderate (Yellow)	3-10%	Once a week
High/Very High (Red)	>10%	Twice a week

Executive Directive 21-011

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- If the regional CALI level increases to a higher level of activity, the covered setting should begin requiring not fully vaccinated covered workers to be tested at the frequency shown in the provided table.
- If the regional CALI level decreases to a lower level of activity, the covered setting should continue requiring not fully vaccinated covered workers to be tested at the higher frequency until the county positivity rate has remained at the lower activity level for at least two weeks before reducing testing frequency.

Executive Directive 21-011

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- *COVID-19 Immunization Status Report* shall be compiled by the Tuesday of each week after the covered setting reviews all vaccination and testing records and shall include data for the preceding Tuesday through Monday.
- The first report shall be compiled by October 26, 2021 for licensed community residences for persons with IDD and TBI and certified day programs for persons with IDD and TBI.
- The first report for Support Coordination Agencies shall be compiled by Thursday November 18, 2021.
- Covered settings must submit this report to the NJDOH upon request. If they do not submit they will be considered delinquent and referred to the Department of Human Services to address.

Day Services Funding Increase

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- The Division is pleased to confirm that on October 1, 2021, day services rates were increased as a result of additional funding in the Division's FY22 budget.

These increases apply to:

- Career Planning;
- Community Inclusion Services;
- Day Habilitation;
- Pre-Vocational Training Individual and Group; and
- Supported Employment Individual and Group.

Day Services Funding Increase

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- The following notifications of the rate increases are posted on the [DHS Public Notices](#) webpage:
 - [FY22 Regular Base Rates](#) is used by providers for claiming to Gainwell for services delivered on or after October 1.
 - [FY22 Temporary Enhanced Rates](#) **will not** be used for provider claiming to Gainwell but are used by DDD to calculate separate enhanced rate payments for services delivered on or after October 1.
- Individual budgets in iRecord have been increased to accommodate [FY22 Regular Base Rates](#).

Voting

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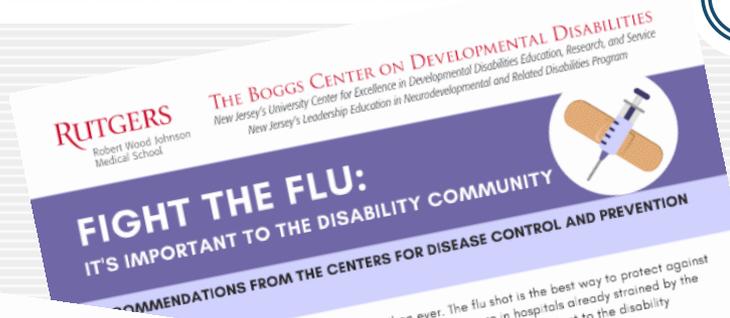
- November 2, 2021 is election day in New Jersey.
- DHS and the Division encourage all persons, including those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, to vote.
- For Voter Rights and Accessibility Information, please visit:
 - <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/voter-rights.shtml>.

Fight the Flu

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Fight the Flu Fact Sheet & Social Story

Available on
The Boggs Center's [Fight
the Flu](#) website.



Important Resources

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- 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

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- For assistance during this time:
 - For issues, call the Division Community Services office for your county or 1 (800) 832-9173.
 - When calling, you will be connected with the Division's answering service who will take information about the circumstance and have a Division staff person reach out.
 - 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

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- 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](#)

