

State of New Jersey



NJ DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Division Update for Individuals, Families, and Providers

October 27, 2022

Agenda

- Upcoming Webinars
- COVID-19 Statistics
- Reminders for Service Providers on the HCBS Settings Final Rule
- DHS Budget Listening Session
- Resources

DDD Update Webinar Schedule for Remainder of 2022

- November Update Webinar:
 - **Tuesday, November 15, 2022 – 10:30 am.**
 - [Register for the November Webinar.](#)
- December Update Webinar:
 - **Thursday, December 15, 2022 – 10:30 am.**
 - [Register for the December Webinar.](#)



DDD Update Webinar Schedule for 2023

- January Update Webinar
 - Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 10:30 AM
 - [Register for the January Webinar](#)
- February Update Webinar
 - Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 10:30 AM
 - [Register for the February Webinar](#)
- March Update Webinar
 - Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 10:30 AM
 - [Register for the March Webinar](#)
- Additional 2023 dates and registration information can be found on the Division's [Public Update Meetings](#) website.



New Jersey COVID-19 Current Statistics*



State of New Jersey	
Positive	2,358,050
Deaths	31,748

**This update is as of October 26, 2022.*

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*



	Community		Developmental Centers	Total
	Licensed	Own Home		
Positive	4,736	2,605	897	8,238
Deaths	136	88	43	267

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](#).

Reminders for Service Providers on the HCBS Settings Final Rule

- March 2023 is the deadline for compliance with HCBS Settings Final Rule.
- The Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) released the final version of the Statewide Transition Plan (STP) on October 3, 2022 for public comment. The closing date for public comment is November 7, 2022. Direct notice can be found [here](#).
 - All Addendums for the STP can be found on the [DMAHS STP Website](#).



Reminders for Service Providers on the HCBS Settings Final Rule

- Verification activities demonstrate that some policies and procedures submitted by providers are outdated, particularly with respect to door locks, privacy and visitor policies.
- These policies and procedures will need to be updated to ensure compliance. In these circumstances, providers will also need to describe how they will ensure staff are trained in the updated areas.
- Impacted providers will receive an email on or about October 31, 2022 identifying what areas require remediation. The email will note that Corrective Action Plans for non-compliant areas will be due within 30 days of receipt of the email notice.

Reminders for Service Providers on the HCBS Settings Final Rule

- Notable dates:
 - November 30, 2022 is the deadline by which providers and Support Coordinators must have any person specific restriction pertaining to food access, door locks, etc. not already approved by the Planning Team (including Human Rights Committee approval as applicable) documented in the service plan. The provider must alert the individual's Support Coordinator immediately to ensure this process is completed by the deadline.
 - December 1, 2022 is the deadline for providers to be in compliance with the Licensing Bulletin [Privacy in Residential Living Spaces](#).
 - Please feel free to direct any questions to the DDD.HCBShelpdesk@dhs.nj.gov.



Reminders for Service Providers on the HCBS Settings Final Rule

- Support Coordinators:
 - Assist individuals to choose their services and supports, and who provides them.
 - Communicate settings options to the individual, minimally at the annual Planning Team Meeting, including opportunities for a non-disability specific setting and the option for a private unit in a residential setting. The setting options must be identified and documented in the person-centered service plan and based on the individual's needs, preferences, and, for residential settings, resources available for room and board.
 - As applicable, ensure that for an individual residing in a group home, supervised apartment or attending a day habilitation program, prevocational program, or group supported employment program have any restriction supported by a specific assessed need and justified in the person-centered service plan (i.e. ISP) by November 30, 2022.

Reminders for Service Providers on the HCBS Settings Final Rule

- Documentation for HCBS Modifications must include:
 - Identification of the specific and individualized assessed need; That positive interventions/less intrusive methods have been tried without success; That the description of the modification is clear and directly proportionate to the assessed need; That it is required to keep the individual safe; That there is regular collection/review of data to measure the effectiveness of the modification; That the need for continued use of the modification is regularly reviewed; That the individual/guardian is included in the process.
- Please see section 11.7 *Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Settings Compliance* in the CCP or SP Manual for more detail.

Reminders for Service Providers on the HCBS Settings Final Rule

- Helpful information for Service Providers:
 - [A Provider's Guide to the Home and Community Based Services Final Settings Rule](#)
 - This guide assists service providers with information, best practices, and examples to assist in HCBS compliance.
- Helpful information for individuals and families:
 - [Community Life Video Series](#)
 - The Boggs Center's Community Life Video Series highlights why community life and aspects of the Rule that support it are important to people with disabilities.
 - [DDD's NJ Statewide Transition Plan "At a Glance"](#)
- Additional information can be found at:
 - [Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services Statewide Transition Plan Website](#)
 - [Division's HCBS Statewide Transition Plan Website.](#)



DHS Budget Listening Session



- The Department of Human Services (DHS) will host a Virtual Budget Listening Session on November 3, 2022 at 1pm.
- New Jerseyans can offer verbal or written testimony to inform the DHS budget for the upcoming fiscal year (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024).
- To accommodate as many speakers as possible, verbal testimony can be no more than 3 minutes.
- Please email Humanservices@dhs.nj.gov for a time slot reservation. Please include your full name, phone number and organization (if applicable) as well as any accommodations needed to participate. Sign language and closed captioning will be provided.



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.