



State of New Jersey

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GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF PROGRAM INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
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CAROLE JOHNSON
COMMISSIONER

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
LT. GOVERNOR

LAURI WOODWARD
DIRECTOR

September 16, 2020

Dear Providers:

As you are aware, the COVID-19 public health emergency has significantly impacted the delivery of services to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in New Jersey, particularly those in provider-managed residential and congregate day settings. To ensure consistent implementation of rigorous health and safety protocols in these settings, the Departments of Human Services and Health, and the Division of Developmental Disabilities have issued detailed guidance to providers, all of which is available on the [Department of Human Services Coronavirus Information Hub](#) and the [Department of Health COVID-19 Information Hub](#). This critically important guidance includes risk mitigation strategies such as regular health screenings, monitoring for signs and symptoms of illness, wearing masks and social distancing.

Please note that failure of any Division-funded residential or congregate day provider to implement all applicable COVID-related health and safety protocols may be determined to constitute neglect of individuals served. Further, such a finding of neglect may result in the imposition of negative licensing or other administrative/legal action against the responsible entity.

The purpose of our conference call with providers on September 15 was to emphasize these expectations and potential consequences for failure to comply. Please monitor compliance across all residential and congregate day locations and ensure that all program supervisors, managers and staff understand and consistently adhere to the requirements.

Thank you for your continued commitment to maintaining the health and safety of the individuals we mutually serve.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jonathan Seifried in black ink.

Jonathan Seifried
Assistant Commissioner, Division of Developmental Disabilities

Handwritten signature of Lauri Woodward in black ink.

Lauri Woodward Director, Office of Program Integrity and Accountability