



ODP Update: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

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What is a virus?

- A virus is a small infectious agent
- Can only reproduce inside the cells of another living organism
- Cannot multiply outside of a living host
- Antibiotics that treat bacterial infections do not work on viruses
- Antiviral medications exist for some viruses
- Vaccines are a way of preventing spread of viruses

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What is coronavirus?

- Coronaviruses are a family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others circulating among animals
- Some viruses in this family cause only mild symptoms and some are more severe.
- The **2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19)** is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in people and can spread from person-to-person. This virus was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in China
- When a particular area or region has an outbreak of infection that becomes widespread, it is called an **epidemic**.
- Since it was identified, COVID-19 has continued to spread from person to person around the world, and in March the World Health Organization declared a **pandemic**.

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What are the symptoms of coronavirus?

- Symptoms of the COVID-19 can include:
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
- The symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure. Reported illnesses have ranged from people with little to no symptoms to people being severely ill and dying. We don't yet know why some people have more severe symptoms than others. We do know that older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness.

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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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How can the coronavirus spread?

- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person
- It is believed that this mainly occurs between people who are in close contact with one another, which is considered to be within about 6 feet.
- Human coronaviruses spread just like the flu or a cold:
 - Through the air by coughing or sneezing;
 - Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands;
 - Touching an object or surface with the virus on it;
 - Occasionally, fecal contamination.
- The virus is spread through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

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Steps to Prevent Illness

- Infection control
- Steps to protect yourself
- Steps to protect others
- Especially important to stay informed.
- Coronavirus pages on the DOH website at www.Health.PA.gov
- The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

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Steps to protect yourself

- Clean your hands often
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact, this includes hand shaking.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Put distance between yourself and other people. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

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Steps to protect others

- **Stay home if you are sick**
 - Except to get medical care.
 - Call ahead before visiting your doctor

- **Cover coughs and sneezes**
 - Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hand.
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
 - Throw used tissues in the trash.
 - Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

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Steps to protect others

- **Wear a facemask if you are sick**
 - If you are sick: You should wear a facemask when you are around other people and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask, then you should do your best to cover your coughs and sneezes, and people who are caring for you should wear a facemask if they enter your room.
 - If you are NOT sick: You do not need to wear a facemask unless you are caring for someone who is sick (and they are not able to wear a facemask)
 - Facemasks may be in short supply and they should be saved for caregivers.

- **Clean and disinfect**
 - Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
 - If surfaces are dirty, clean them
 - To disinfect, most common EPA-registered household disinfectants will work. Use disinfectants appropriate for the surface.

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Communication is Key!

- Up, down and across
- ODP will continue to monitor information from [the Pennsylvania Department of Health](#) and [the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and provide very regular updates.



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Communication is Key

- *If staff or a person for whom you provide services is suspected to have COVID-19 or tests presumptively positive for COVID-19, **please notify the ODP Regulatory Administration Unit at : RA-PW6100REGADMIN@pa.gov.***
- For ODP to be responsive to the needs related to COVID-19, timely information from the provider community is essential. Providers should follow Department of Health (DOH) guidance for evaluation, testing, and reporting related to staff or a beneficiary suspected of having COVID-19.

Questions? Call 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258)



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Communication is Key

Providers contact ODP before making any changes to their business practices in response to COVID-19.

Examples of changes in business practices include, but are not limited to:

- Suspending services at a service location such as temporarily closing a day program.
- Eliminating the provision of community-based activities.
- Restricting individuals' abilities to receive services.

Providers may contact the appropriate ODP Regional Office or email the ODP Regulatory Administration Unit at RA-PW6100REGADMIN@pa.gov

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Mitigation Strategies: Reduce Contact where Possible

- Training and conference cancelations
- Supports Coordination remote/telephone only
- Suspend IM4Q
- Suspend Harry M Assessments
- Suspend requirement for 25% time in community for CPS
- State Center Visitor and Travel Restrictions

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Training/Meeting Strategy

- In accordance with the Governor's emergency disaster declaration, courses/trainings that involve 50 or more attendees are being considered for movement to webinars or postponement.
- ODP training schedules impacted:
 - ISP Staffing Ratio
 - Medications Administration Face to Face Course
 - Mental Health First Aid
 - Capacity Building Institute (CBI)
 - Quality Management Certification
 - ASD Seminar



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Current ODP Guidance

Supports Coordination Organizations (SCOs)

- Effective immediately and until further notice, ODP is permitting SCOs to choose to conduct Supports Coordination Monitoring and ISP Meetings remotely; using phone or video conferencing solutions. When either of these responsibilities are completed *in place of* a required *face to face meeting*, the Supports Coordinator should document the occurrence in a corresponding service note.



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Current ODP Guidance (cont.)

Community Participation Support/Day Habilitation Providers – Time in Community

- Suspend the requirement that providers support each individual at least 25% of time in community
- For ID/A waivers, ISP Teams do not need to complete variances when individuals will not spend 25% of their time in the community on average per month during this time.



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Current ODP Guidance (cont.)

Residential and Community Participation Support Providers – Limiting Visitors

- Residential providers should refer to the Long Term Care Facility (LTCF) Visitation Guidance for establishing interim visitation protocols



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Anticipating Needs

- Position for redeploying staff where needed most
 - Provider qualifications
 - Staffing ratios
 - Limits on setting size
- Increased use of phone or video technologies to minimize contact
- Suspension of rights around visitors
- Expansion of locations where services may be provided
- Extension of respite
- Financial impact of program closures
- Rapid need for individual plan changes



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Anticipating Needed Changes

ODP ID/A Waivers – Appendix K Submission

- Utilized by the state during emergency situations to request amendment to its approved waiver. It includes actions that states can take under the existing Section 1915(c) home and community-based waiver authority in order to respond to an emergency.

Regulatory Waivers

- DHS exploring options related to waiving requirements necessary to respond to the emergency.



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Montgomery County

ODP has determined that the following functions and activities are being **suspended** in Montgomery County:

- Annual licensing site visits
- Facility-based Community Participation Support services
- Independent Monitoring for Quality (IM4Q) interviews (suspended statewide as of 3/12/2020)
- Supports Intensity Scale meetings
- Quality Assurance and Improvement – *remaining site visits*



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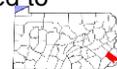
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Montgomery County (cont.)

The following have been identified as **essential functions**.

- Licensing – Complaints will be followed-up on and investigated as appropriate
- Abuse and Neglect Investigations – critical investigations will continue using remote methods/telephone whenever possible
- Supports Coordination Organizations – will continue all individual monitoring and individual planning using remote methods/telephone
- Administrative Entity – Montgomery County AE staff will be working remotely to complete essential functions including: review and approval of ISPs, incident review, certified investigations related to abuse and neglect, and waiting list management functions.



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Logistics for Managing Business Changes

- Provider/service level survey alert tool
 - Inform DHS/ODP about risk/service closures and guide decision making
 - Create a record if Appendix K is approved/implemented for the purposes of retroactive approvals, documentation and payment
- Some type of billing indicator

Stay Tuned for Specific Operational Guidance



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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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