

# Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Services During COVID-19

Presentation to Senate Human Services Committee

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Director

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# Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) Response

## COVID-19 Information and Resources

### Priorities:

- Keeping people with I/DD safe and healthy
- Supporting families and those providing services to people with I/DD

# Data and Outcomes

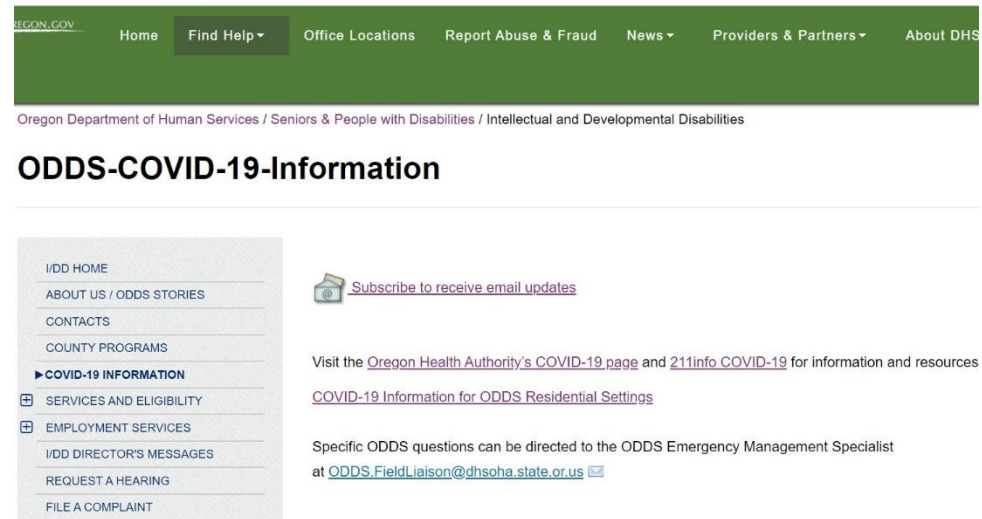
Studies on adverse outcomes for people with I/DD highlight the need to act quickly

- New York: residents with I/DD in group homes 5.34 times more likely than the general population to develop COVID-19 and 4.86 times more likely to die from it.
- Lerner Center study: death rates from pneumonia from COVID-19 are between 2.2-5.8 times higher among individuals with I/DD than among those without.
- D.C.: Rate of COVID infection among people in DD services seven times higher than general population.

# ODDS Response

ODDS issued first guidance related to COVID-19 on March 3, 2020

- Website
- Resources for case managers, providers, individuals and families



The screenshot shows the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODDS) website. The navigation bar includes links for Home, Find Help, Office Locations, Report Abuse & Fraud, News, Providers & Partners, and About DHS. Below the navigation bar, the page title is "ODDS-COVID-19-Information". A sidebar menu on the left lists various services, with "COVID-19 INFORMATION" highlighted. The main content area features a "Subscribe to receive email updates" button, a link to the Oregon Health Authority's COVID-19 page, and contact information for the ODDS Emergency Management Specialist.

ODDS-COVID-19-Information

Subscribe to receive email updates

Visit the [Oregon Health Authority's COVID-19 page](#) and [211info COVID-19](#) for information and resources

[COVID-19 Information for ODDS Residential Settings](#)

Specific ODDS questions can be directed to the ODDS Emergency Management Specialist at [ODDS.FieldLiaison@dhs.oregon.gov](mailto:ODDS.FieldLiaison@dhs.oregon.gov)

# I/DD Service System: Response

Guidance and policies issued for:

- In-home services and Supported Living: issued guidance on protective measures
- 24-hour group homes and I/DD foster homes: visitor restrictions, requirements for face coverings
- Employment/Day Support Activities: Closed congregate facility services
- Case Management: remote services

# Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Direct Support Professionals – Work with agency/AFH which works with local Public Health
- Personal Support Workers – Through OHCC process
- Individuals in services – Connect with case manager

## Getting PPE During COVID-19



Here is how to get personal protective equipment for people with I/DD and those who support them:

### People with intellectual and developmental disabilities

Contact your Case Manager (Services Coordinator or Personal Agent).



### Personal Support Workers

Submit a request to the Oregon Home Care Commission on [SEIU's website](#) or [via email](#)



### ODDS Providers

24-hour group homes, Adult I/DD Foster Homes, other provider types & Case Management Entities

Work with [county public health/emergency management office](#).



### COVID-19 Information and Resources:

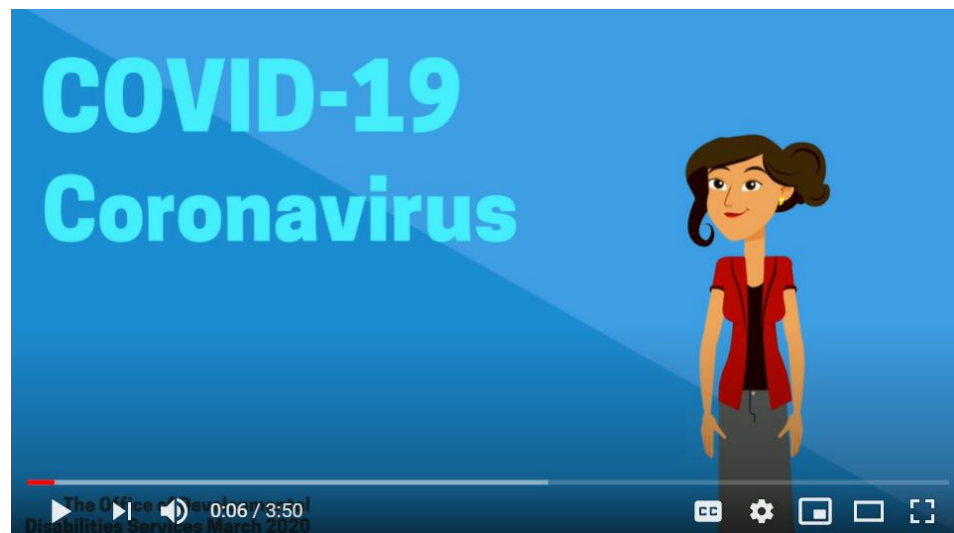
- [ODDS COVID-19 web page](#)
- [Policy on masks](#)
- [OHA COVID-19 page](#)

# Supports for Individuals, Families

COVID-19 resources

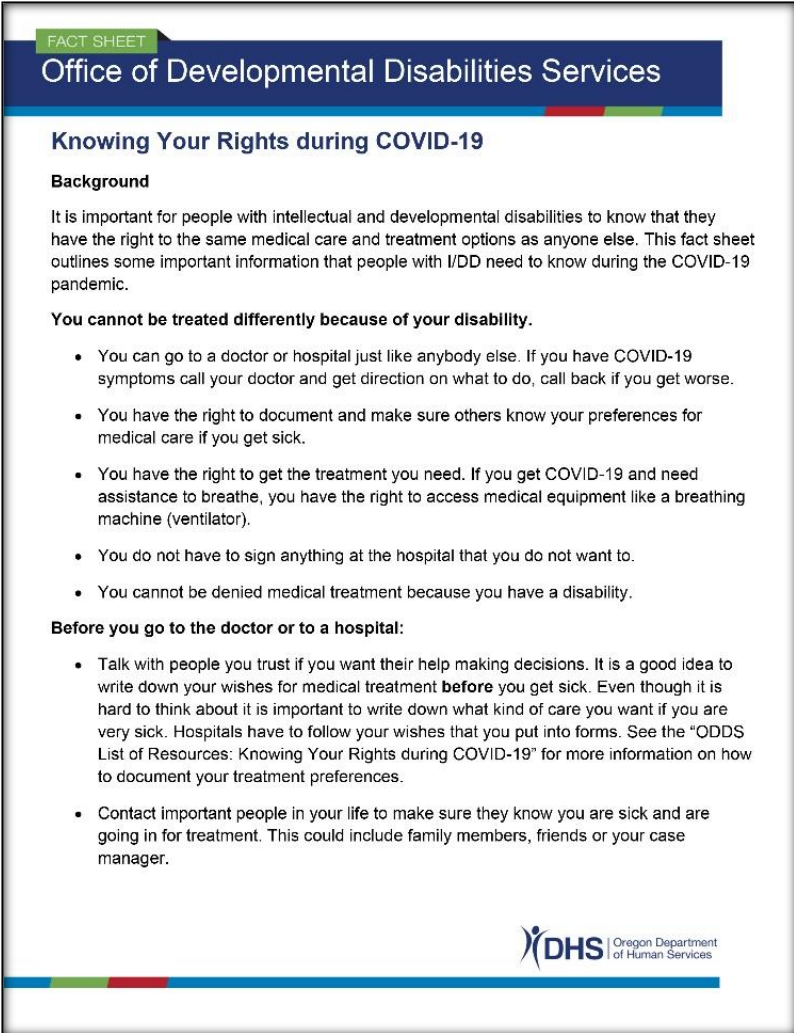
for individuals and families include:

- Medical Rights Fact Sheet
- Stipends for parents
- Animated videos for education and training
- Expanded family supports program



# Medical Rights

- ODDS Medical Rights Fact Sheet on ODDS COVID-19 web page
- OHA Non-Discrimination Guidance
- OHA Visitation Guidance



The image is a screenshot of a fact sheet titled "Office of Developmental Disabilities Services" and "Knowing Your Rights during COVID-19". It includes sections for "Background", "You cannot be treated differently because of your disability.", and "Before you go to the doctor or to a hospital:". The background section explains the importance of knowing rights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The "You cannot be treated differently because of your disability." section lists five bullet points regarding medical care, documentation, treatment, signing documents, and denial of care. The "Before you go to the doctor or to a hospital:" section lists two bullet points about writing down wishes and contacting important people.

**FACT SHEET**  
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

## Knowing Your Rights during COVID-19

**Background**


It is important for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to know that they have the right to the same medical care and treatment options as anyone else. This fact sheet outlines some important information that people with I/DD need to know during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**You cannot be treated differently because of your disability.**

- You can go to a doctor or hospital just like anybody else. If you have COVID-19 symptoms call your doctor and get direction on what to do, call back if you get worse.
- You have the right to document and make sure others know your preferences for medical care if you get sick.
- You have the right to get the treatment you need. If you get COVID-19 and need assistance to breathe, you have the right to access medical equipment like a breathing machine (ventilator).
- You do not have to sign anything at the hospital that you do not want to.
- You cannot be denied medical treatment because you have a disability.

**Before you go to the doctor or to a hospital:**

- Talk with people you trust if you want their help making decisions. It is a good idea to write down your wishes for medical treatment **before** you get sick. Even though it is hard to think about it is important to write down what kind of care you want if you are very sick. Hospitals have to follow your wishes that you put into forms. See the "ODDS List of Resources: Knowing Your Rights during COVID-19" for more information on how to document your treatment preferences.
- Contact important people in your life to make sure they know you are sick and are going in for treatment. This could include family members, friends or your case manager.

 Oregon Department of Human Services



# Current Situation: Phase 1

- Visitor restrictions and other precautions still in place
- Individuals with I/DD continue to take precautions
- Remote services still in place, with face-to-face only allowed for case managers to ensure health and safety



# Current Situation as of May 28

COVID-19 cases in residential settings total since March 2020:

## Individuals:

3 in adult foster homes

6 in group homes

8 in in-home services

## Provider staff:

1 in child foster home

4 in adult foster homes

12 in group homes

7 in in-home services

# Contact tracing and Notifications

- Local Public Health Authorities are responsible for contract tracing
- ODDS requires provider agencies to notify anyone who has come within close contact of a person with COVID-19
  - Sample notification letters available
- Personal Support Workers are required to notify ODDS
  - ODDS coordinates notification

# Looking Ahead

- Continue issuing guidance to ensure people with I/DD are safe and healthy
- Learn from this experience and use ‘lessons learned’ to help improve services and supports in future
- Creative options for communicating with people with I/DD and their families

## Resource Guide on Creative Problem-Solving

ODDS is collecting information from providers and case management entities on creative ways they are supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. This ranges from everything from supporting people to stay connected with family and friends to helping people understand precautions for staying safe.

Here are some ideas provided directly from Community Developmental Disabilities Programs, Brokerages, providers, family members and ODDS staff.

### From families



- Instead of dining at his favorite restaurants, we order to-go, pick up or delivery.
- Instead of going to the grocery store, we are teaching him to use Instacart grocery delivery service.
- Instead of going to the movie theater, we are planning home movie showings.
- For the things we can't find an alternate activity for, we added them to a "Coming Soon Fall 2020" activity list to help our son look forward to the future.
- Staying connected to our son when he is 2.5 hours away from us has been a challenge for our family over this past year. We talk to him via FaceTime daily (sometimes several times a day), text during the day, call each other, and do the best we can to make sure we are a part of his daily life as much as possible. When COVID-19 hit, we contacted all our friends and family members on Facebook and let them know our son would love to hear from them. Several immediately stepped up, asking me for his mailing address and ideas of what to send. Soon I started getting excited calls from our boy, telling me all about the treasures he had received that day. There were cards, stickers, small toys, movies to share with his housemates, and treats. I often had to explain to him who the packages came from, and how they knew him. This opened the door for conversations we have never had with our son before and expanded his world.
- We continue to have one Personal Support Worker who works weekdays, and two PSWs who alternate evenings that continue to

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# Questions?



ODDS COVID Web Page:

<https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/ODDS-COVID-19-Information.aspx>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/oregonDHS.IDD>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/OregonODDS>

