



March 3, 2020

To: All ODDS Staff and Stakeholders

From: Lilia Teninty, Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

**This message is about COVID-19 and developmental disabilities (DD) services. This is initial information for people who receive in-home services, families and personal support workers.** Please share.

The Oregon Health Authority has identified the first presumptive positive cases of COVID-19, the illness caused by the novel coronavirus, in Oregon. COVID-19 is spread from person-to-person through droplets in the air and on surfaces that people touch. This is similar to how the flu spreads.

*Health officials urge you to wash your hands; avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth; cover your coughs and stay home if you are sick.* Here's a simple flyer you can share or post:

<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served//LE2681.pdf>

The Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) is sharing information with Community Developmental Disabilities Programs and Brokerages on steps they can take to be prepared. Information is also being shared with providers.

**Everyone should take steps to prevent the spread of illness, including:**

- Hand washing with soap and water; and frequent use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers if soap and water aren't available
- Covering your mouth when coughing, using the inside of the elbow
- Staying home when experiencing symptoms, including a fever, cough, or shortness of breath
- Note that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention currently does NOT recommend the general public to use facemasks.

## Here's some additional information about services:

- If a Personal Support Worker (PSW) is unable to come into the home to provide care, or if household residents need to restrict people from coming into the home, the case manager is able to approve short-term PSW overtime. Case managers may approve short-term overtime hours for PSWs due to “emergent need” and following the existing guidelines available to them. Employers of Record (EOR) and PSWs are encouraged to contact the case manager if an overtime exception might be necessary.
- Employment and Day Support Activity programs may have individuals stay at home or return home when individuals are showing symptoms of illness or have been exposed to the Coronavirus.
- If you support someone who goes to a DSA or employment setting, please encourage them to remain at home if they are showing signs or symptoms of being ill.
- If you employ PSWs, be sure to provide an adequate supply of hand hygiene products. Gloves can be a covered supply by contacting the case manager.
- You may ask visitors to wash hands upon entry to the home and when events arise where handwashing is deemed appropriate to prevent the spread of or exposure to infection. For example, following person-to-person contact, personal hygiene tasks, and touching one's face.
- **If anyone in the household of a person receiving services is being monitored for COVID-19 or the home is placed on quarantine, immediately notify the person's case manager.**

## Helpful resources

- The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Oregon Department of Education put together information for families. It also includes useful information for everyone: <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Documents/Coronavirus%20Schools%20Announcement%2003-01-20.pdf>
- “What everyone should know about COVID-19 testing” infographic from OHA:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASESCONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/Emerging%20Respiratory%20Infections/COVID-19Testing.png>

- For the most current information about this outbreak in the United States, go to the CDC website.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html>
- OHA provides Oregon-specific information on its website including fact sheets in multiple languages: [www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus](http://www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus)
- Oregon Home Care Commission's Health & Safety web page:  
<https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/HCC/PSW-HCW/Pages/Health-Safety.aspx>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lilia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

Lilia Teninty  
Director  
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

*Previous ODDS Director's Messages are available at*  
<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/messages.aspx>

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