

This message is posted in English, Russian, Simplified Chinese, Somali, Spanish and Vietnamese at: <https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/messages.aspx>



Nov. 23, 2020

To: ODDS Stakeholders

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

Subject: Thank you

The Thanksgiving Day holiday is a traditional time to say “thank you” to the people in our lives and to gather with friends and loved ones. The dramatic increase of COVID-19 in our state, and the need to take additional precautions, means this Thanksgiving will be like no other.

On top of the pandemic, lives were upturned by wildfire. We also, rightly, devoted attention to the fight to end racism. In the midst of this intense activity, it can be a challenge to stop and reflect. I want to make sure you know how thankful I am for you, your organizations and the work you do every day.

This past year has caused us all to dig into our emotional and physical reserves to keep doing the essential work we do to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I continue to be impressed with the level of engagement and caring you exhibit every day.

As you plan this unusual Thanksgiving, I ask that you follow these tips for holiday safety and holiday meal safety:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ERD/Pages/Safe-Holiday-Celebrations-COVID-19.aspx>

ODDS also has additional flyers related to worker safety for providers and others to share with your staff and post in homes and offices:

<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/de3065.pdf>

<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/de3059.pdf>

I hope you have an enjoyable Thanksgiving Day holiday.

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>

*Follow us on Facebook @oregonDHS.IDD or twitter @OregonODDS and explore our website.*

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact the Oregon Office of Developmental Disabilities Services at 503-945-5811. We accept calls from all forms of relay service for people who are Deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing or have a speech disability. For more information about relay service providers visit [www.oregonrelay.com](http://www.oregonrelay.com) or [www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/trs-providers](http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/trs-providers).