



Sept. 11, 2020

To: ODDS Staff and Stakeholders

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

Subject: Wildfire evacuations, COVID-19 and thank you

The COVID-19 pandemic called on all of us to step up and do the extraordinary. Now, with wildfires throughout so much of Oregon, the work you are doing is nothing short of heroic.

Group homes and Foster Homes have been evacuated across the state and providers have had to be flexible and creative in identifying appropriate evacuation sites while being mindful of COVID-19 precautions. The extent of the evacuations has created the need to adjust plans and move people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and direct support staff into administrative buildings, hotels and even other agencies' vacant homes. Case managers are staying in close contact with the individuals they support. Thank you all for continuing to support people in creative ways.

This situation is hard. Staff and DSPs have had to evacuate, some have experienced devastating loss. Our hearts go out to each of you.

I also want to make sure you have seen important guidance from the Oregon Health Authority on what to do if a person needs to evacuate and has also tested positive for COVID-19 or are in quarantine or isolation. Be sure to follow these guidelines:

<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le3257.pdf>

Before the wildfires stunned our world, I recorded a video to recognize DSPs and our entire workforce for Direct Support Professionals Recognition week. The sentiments in the video remain true in the midst of the wildfires. I am proud and honored to be part of a network of people with

such a clear vision and commitment to people with I/DD, and to one another. I hope you will take a moment to [watch the video](#).

Stay well. Be safe.

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-
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