



July 14, 2020

To: ODDS Staff, Stakeholders and Providers

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

Oregon Health Authority recently revised its [clinical testing guidance](#) for health care providers. There are some important changes that I want to highlight.

The guidance notes that people in “congregate care settings,” people with disabilities, and those in close contacts of confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 cases are prioritized for testing - **with or without symptoms**.

While we do not use the term “congregate care” in our system, it is important for people to know to use these terms instead of group home or foster home when engaging with these other entities. For instance, it may be important when talking with local public health agencies to use phrases such as: “I work in a congregate care setting,” or “I work with people with disabilities” or “I am a person with a disability” or “I am a person who lives in a congregate care setting.”

The majority of people in I/DD settings are eligible for the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) and receive care from their doctors and providers in the community, including testing. Sometimes, people can request testing by calling their doctor. Other times, local public health agencies (LPHAs) may provide facilities or individuals in their communities with information on where to go to obtain testing. Anyone can apply for OHP if they meet the requirements outlined on the OHP website:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/OHP/Pages/Apply.aspx>.

If someone does not have OHP, they can see a clinician through their county health clinic or through a federally qualified health center (FQHC). You can find a list of FQHCs in Oregon here:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HPA/HP-PCO/Documents/FQHCs.pdf>

It is important to note that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are at higher risk of becoming severely ill from COVID-19. This important guidance helps to ensure that people with I/DD are prioritized for testing.

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

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