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Dec. 14, 2020

To: Case Management Entities and Providers  
From: Lilia Teninty, Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services  
Subject: Holiday Season and Expectations

I appreciate the tremendous effort and hard work of case management entities and providers since the COVID-19 pandemic first started. Our system dramatically shifted to help keep people healthy and safe, and your work made this possible. I am thankful every day for the work you all do.

During this holiday season, I know it is difficult not to be able to celebrate together like we are used to. Holiday parties, office celebrations and gatherings need to look different this year to stay in alignment with the [Governor's Executive Order](#), [OSHA rules for workplaces](#), and to make sure we are doing everything possible to minimize risk to the people we serve. I know we want to celebrate and acknowledge the efforts of staff – Direct Support Professionals, Services Coordinators, Personal Agents and others – who are supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in very difficult circumstances.

Find creative ways to celebrate with staff, such as a virtual ugly sweater competition or a virtual gift exchange. Resources for holidays celebrations include [guidance from the Centers for Disease Control](#) and these creative [virtual party ideas from CNN](#). These ideas may also help the people you support to have safe celebrations with their friends and family.

Future holiday seasons will include in-person gatherings like we are used to, but for now, we must do everything possible to keep ourselves and the people we support safe and healthy.

Thank you for all that you do to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

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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