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April 21, 2021

To: All ODDS Staff and Stakeholders
From: Lilia Teninty, Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services
Subject: COVID public health emergency continues nationwide

As a result of the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has renewed the January 31, 2020 determination that a public health emergency continues to exist nationwide. This action means all HHS/CMS waivers and flexibilities currently in place will continue until July 20, 2021 unless the HHS Secretary issues guidance to terminate it earlier.

For more details, please review this announcement:
<https://www.phe.gov/emergency/news/healthactions/phe/Pages/COVID-15April2021.aspx>

The extension of the federal emergency declaration allows measures that ODDS put in place in response to the pandemic to remain in place. This includes approval for parents of minors to be Personal Support Workers (PSWs) or Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). The renewal determination takes effect on April 21, 2021 and runs through July 20, 2021.

Please continue to follow existing guidance for COVID-19.

Thank you for all you are doing to ensure health and safety.

Sincerely,



Lilia Teninty
Director
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

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