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Nov. 23, 2021

To: ODDS Staff and Partners

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

Subject: Holiday message and thank you

This Thanksgiving and holiday season, we have much to look forward to and celebrate.

While the pandemic has forever changed our lives and how we gather, COVID-19 is less mysterious than it was a year ago. Science has proven that masks and vaccinations can protect us and our loved ones from infection and serious illness. More than 70% of Oregonians have received at least one vaccination dose, and treatments for those with COVID-19 are continuing to advance. We are more informed and are continuing to adapt our behavior as we move forward.

When you gather with family and friends in the coming days and weeks, I hope you'll find some relief from the stress of the pandemic. Please protect those who are at higher risk of serious illness and complications from COVID-19, such as loved ones, those you serve who have I/DD and those with other health conditions. Here are some tips for holiday gatherings and meal safety: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ERD/Pages/Safe-Holiday-Celebrations-COVID-19.aspx>.

I am grateful to all of you who have worked so hard to care for and protect the members of Oregon's I/DD community this year.

I wish you all a joyful, safe and healthy Thanksgiving holiday.

Sincerely,



Lilia Teninty
Director
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

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