



April 14, 2022

To: All ODDS Staff and Partners
From: Lilia Teninty, Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services
Subject: Extension of federal public health emergency

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) and federal government took actions to protect the health of those receiving services and working in Oregon's developmental disabilities system.

The federal public health emergency (PHE) for COVID-19 that was scheduled to expire April 16, 2022, has been extended for 90 days. That gives us time prepare for the transition back to our standard procedures.

The following temporary actions and exemptions will end when the PHE ends:

- Video calls to conduct level of care (LOC), Oregon Needs Assessments (ONAs) and risk assessments remotely.
- Preexisting authorizations and the ability to extend service authorizations for one year without doing a new Individual Support Plan (ISP).
- Parents and guardians of minors with an intellectual and developmental disability (I/DD) serving as their child's paid caregiver.
- Suspension of normal Tribal public notices and consultation processes for Medicaid submissions.
- Community based service programs using verbal consent for person-centered service plans.
- The suspension of fingerprint-based criminal background checks for new employees.

We will issue communications with formal policy directives and instructions to support staff and partners through these transitions.

Thank you to all who have adjusted their procedures to care for Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities during the federal PHE.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lilia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" that loops around.

Lilia Teninty
Director
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

Previous ODDS Director's Messages are available at <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/messages.aspx>

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