

Action Request Transmittal Developmental Disabilities Services



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Number: APD-AR-20-029

Issue date: 3/18/2020

Topic: Developmental Disabilities

Due date: May 31, 2020

Subject: Community Living Services - COVID-19 precautions

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging: {Select type} | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aging and People with Disabilities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self Sufficiency Programs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Intensive In Home Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County DD program managers | <input type="checkbox"/> Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support Service Brokerage Directors | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): ODDS In-Home Service Providers (Community Living Supports) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Residential Services | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Welfare Programs | |

Action required:

The wellbeing of individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities living in their own homes or family homes and the valued workforce that assists them every day throughout Oregon are essential. As the Oregon Health Authority continues to identify additional presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 throughout the state, the Oregon Office on Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) wants to share additional information with in-home community living service agencies.

Keep supporting individuals

Attendant care staff for children and adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities are essential and should continue to provide supports. While the supports may need to be slightly adjusted due to COVID-19 risks, the individual needs to be supported in completing their ADL, IADL, and maintaining their overall health and safety as outlined below. If there are questions, you are encouraged to reach out to the individual's case manager.

Plan and Prepare

In-home provider agencies should have plans in place with their staff to support in making plans with the individuals and their families. With the ongoing changes around COVID-19, direct care staff should be in contact with the individual and/or family regularly to assess current needs of the individual, which would include calling ahead each day to confirm if anyone in the home is ill, and also letting the individual and/or family know if the direct care staff is ill. If the individual is ill, the staff should discuss what steps to take in supporting the individual. This could include providing indirect supports, if appropriate and related to the individual's ISP goals and supports. Additionally, the staff could also come and support the individual directly, being sure to take preventive and precautionary steps.

Back-up planning should be occurring between the case manager and the individual and their family. Additionally, the in-home provider agency should also be discussing back up plans with the individual and their family in the event that either the individual and/or their primary support (either family or paid support) become ill.

Take precautions for you and the individual

Practice good hygiene

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth.

Cover coughs and sneezes

- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when cough or sneeze or use the inside of elbow. Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Immediately follow the "Practice good hygiene" steps above.

Clean and disinfect

- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- Clean dirty surfaces: Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

Avoid close contact

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick or have symptoms of COVID-19.
- If necessary, wear a mask while providing supports to an individual that is ill.

Limit community activity as much as possible

While community integration and access are an important component for all individuals, another precaution that can be taken is keeping these as minimal as possible. When engaging in community activities, social distancing should be exercised. This involves avoiding large crowds and crowded places and maintaining at least a six-foot distance from other people. When community activities are to occur, be planful with the individual on how to mitigate risks. This includes discussing what necessary steps and precautions need to be taken.

This information is applicable and should be used throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, even if it extends beyond the above-mentioned May 31, 2020 deadline. Additional guidance will be provided as needed should the situation change.

Reason for action:

In-home provider agencies need to continue to provide supports to individuals while maintaining contact with their staff and the individuals they support their family to ensure that appropriate measures are being taken to promote health and safety of all involved.

This transmittal will be discussed in a Webinar on March 19, 2020 at 2:00PM – 3:00PM. **Please register** for Provider Expectations COVID-19 Risk Mitigation and Response - Webinar at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3518047287725902092>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Please send questions in advance to

ODDS.Questions@dhsosha.state.or.us.

Field/stakeholder review: Yes No

If yes, reviewed by:

If you have any questions about this action request, contact:

Contact(s): ODDS COVID-19 Team	
Phone:	Fax:
Email: ODDS.Questions@state.or.us	