

Action Request Transmittal Developmental Disabilities Services



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Number: APD-AR-20-058

Issue date: 5/11/2020

Topic: Developmental Disabilities

Due date: May 22, 2020

Subject: Masks for COVID-19

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support Service Brokerage Directors | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): DD Medicaid Agency Providers; Personal Support Workers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Residential Services | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Welfare Programs | |

Action Required:

At this time, due to the increased risk of COVID-19 for people with I/DD, ODDS is requiring that on or before May 22, 2020 all DSPs or Employment Specialists, including Job Coaches providing direct service to an individual with I/DD wear, at a minimum, a face covering as described above at all times during the delivery of direct care. Specific guidance regarding cloth masks can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>.

Wearing a face covering or surgical (non-respirator) mask is considered best practice for anyone providing a service that requires that you be within 6 feet of another individual.

There is also additional mask guidance designed to help explain these requirements, which can be found here: [ODDS COVID-19 Mask Guidance](#).

Provider Agencies may also choose to issue surgical masks as described above to be worn during the provision of Direct Care. Again, N95 masks should only be used when providing care for an individual with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.

In the event that a Provider Agency is not able to procure face coverings or surgical masks in sufficient supply to provide them to all DSPs as described above, all attempts to secure this PPE must be clearly documented in administrative notes for future review by licensing. If wearing a mask may negatively impact an individual being served due to behavior or other concerns, this should also be documented.

Reason for action:

As the progression of COVID-19 continues across America, the CDC now indicates that individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) or Neurocognitive Disorders are at higher risk of negative medical effects due to COVID-19. Specifically, a new [study](#) demonstrates these effects. In response to COVID-19, ODDS would like to share some general information and resources regarding the use of masks.

Cloth Masks or Face Coverings:

Per the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidance, people can choose to wear homemade masks or face coverings and are encouraged to wear them if they are leaving their residence for any reason. This would include going to work in an individual's home or residence to deliver personal care. It would also be applicable to people with I/DD who leave their homes for any reason. While it is not required that a person with I/DD wear a mask in the community, it is strongly recommended at this time. In a congregate living setting, a person with I/DD may also choose to wear a facemask at home and this should not be prohibited by a provider agency.

Surgical or other Personal Protective Equipment Grade Masks (non-respirator masks):

These masks can be used to protect against bodily fluid, or other substance as directed by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). When providing a personal care service for which a Direct Support Professional (DSP), nurse or other staff would utilize a mask, this type of mask continues to be appropriate. More information can be found on the FDA's website, here: <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/personal-protective-equipment-infection-control/n95-respirators-and-surgical-masks-face-masks>. In the event that N95 masks cannot be obtained for all DSPs providing direct care for a person with a suspected or positive case of COVID-19, this type of mask could be utilized for any non-aerosolizing procedures, as outlined here:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html#take_precautions

N95 Respirator Masks:

This is the mask that is recommended by the CDC for the care of individuals who have a suspected or positive COVID-19 cases. In order to optimize the use of these masks, the CDC has issued specific guidance around how to prioritize these masks including in instances when a DSP, nurse or other staff will be within close contact with

someone who has COVID-19, and during aerosol generating procedures. The CDC guidance can be found here: <https://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2020/03/16/n95-preparedness/>.

It is not recommended or required at this time that a N-95 mask be worn at all times by DSPs or other staff who are working with individuals who do not have a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.

When utilizing an N95 respirator mask, it is critical that the mask fits properly. OSHA requires an initial respirator fit test to identify the right model, style and size of a respirator for each worker. Fit tests require a specific fit test kit. In the event that an employer cannot obtain a fit test kit or provide fit testing for all workers who need an N95 respirator mask, OSHA should be contacted for additional guidance. OSHA resources can be found here: https://www.osha.gov/video/respiratory_protection/fittesting_transcript.html and here: <https://osha.oregon.gov/Pages/re/covid-19.aspx>.

Remember, N95 masks must fit tight in order to be effective. Respirators should not be worn when conditions prevent a good face seal.

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