

Information Memorandum Transmittal Developmental Disabilities Services



Lilia Teninty

Authorized signature

Number: APD-IM-20-077

Issue date: 7/7/2020

Topic: Developmental Disabilities

Due date:

Subject: Pandemic Precautions for Case Management Entities

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Residential Services | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Welfare Programs | |

Message:

The Oregon Health Authority recently issued a [bulletin](#) showing that COVID-19 is increasing significantly in Oregon. Under new modeling, OHA said Oregonians should prepare to see “exponential growth” in coronavirus infections in the next three weeks — with roughly 900 to 4,800 new daily infections possible under moderate to pessimistic models.

In addition, Gov. Brown also issued a [new statewide requirement](#) that face coverings be worn in any indoor public space as of 7/1/20. This does not change the requirements for masks included with the [ODDS Reopening Policy Worker's Guides](#), but does reemphasize their importance.

Case Management Entities (CME), agency providers, foster care providers and Personal Support Workers (PSWs) are expected to follow all Department policies described in the reopening guides, the direction of the Governor's office, direction from Local Public Health Authorities and the Oregon Health Agency Public Health Department.

The Department, in exercising its responsibility to assure health and safety, is now expected that PSWs will wear masks when delivering services within six feet of an individual.

For Personal Support Workers:

- A PSW who has a medical need not to wear a mask is exempt.
- A PSW who lives with the individual is not required to wear a mask when providing direct care.
- If a mask triggers potentially harmful behavior or causes distress for an individual, mask wearing is not required.
- If masks are unavailable, a PSW must document on-going efforts to get them on their timesheet. If a PSW needs PPE (gloves or masks) they have been instructed to contact the case manager of the person they support. PSWs may also submit a request for PPE to the Oregon Home Care Commission by completing an electronic form on SEIU's website at <https://seiu503.tfaforms.net/622> or by emailing OHCC.CustomerRelations@dhsosha.state.or.us.

The Department will be notifying PSWs separately.

ODDS considers failure to follow the Department's COVID related policies a serious threat endangering the health, safety, or welfare of individuals in a program and as such must be reported to the Department under OAR 411-415-0090(5)(c).

We appreciate the work done to date to keep people safe and recognize the role of all partners and providers in leading by example and demonstrating the importance of following precautions, like wearing a face covering, for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

If you have any questions about this information, contact:

| | |
|---|------|
| Contact(s): ODDS COVID-19 team | |
| Phone: | Fax: |
| Email: ODDS.FieldLiaison@dhsosha.state.or.us | |