

Date: 7/31/2020

DDSD COVID-19 Response Memo #27

From: Jason Cornwell, Acting DOH Deputy Secretary
To: All DDSD Waiver Providers and Stakeholders:



As we grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, I would like to continue to communicate the most recent response plans that impact recipients of the DD Waiver, Mi Via Waiver, Medically Fragile Waiver, and State General Fund services to our Stakeholders:

DDSD COVID-19 testing for individuals receiving DD Waiver, Mi Via Waiver, Medically Fragile Waiver, and State General Fund services through July 30th, 2020:

	Total Number of Individuals tested	Total Number of Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19	COVID 19 Related Deaths
DD Waiver	551	25	7
Mi Via Waiver	4	4	0
State General Fund	4	0	0
Medically Fragile Waiver	11	0	0
Totals	570	29	7

1. All individuals who receive services administered through DDSD must follow the Public Health Order that states ***“all New Mexicans should be staying in their homes for all but the most essential activities and services. When New Mexicans are not in their homes, they must strictly adhere to social distancing protocols and wear face coverings to minimize risks. These sacrifices are the best contribution that each of us can individually make to protect the health and wellbeing of our fellow citizens and the State as a whole. In accordance with these purposes, this Order and its exceptions should be narrowly construed to encourage New Mexicans to stay in their homes for all but the most essential activities”***

To be clear, it is the position of DDSD that individuals receiving services administered by DDSD (DD Waiver, Mi Vi Waiver, Medically Fragile Waiver, and State General Fund services) should stay in their homes for all but the most essential activities and services as per the Public Health Order. Should individuals and/or their guardians choose to leave their home and access the most essential activities and services, they assume the same risk of contracting COVID-19 as all others in New Mexico assume that risk (please see the attached current Public Health Order).

2. Beginning August 1, 2020 Provider Agency Nurses may resume face to face visits in accordance with DD Waiver Standards. It is required that the notes resulting from these visits must be entered in Therap in accordance with March 20, 2020 Guidance Document (please see the attached document). Provider Agency Nurses must wear appropriate PPE, maintain social distancing if possible, and abide by COVID Safe Practices.
3. Beginning August 1, 2020 Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Language Pathology, and Behavior Support Consultants may resume face to face therapy (clinical sessions) in the home. Therapists and Behavior Support Consultants must wear appropriate PPE, maintain social distancing if possible, and abide by COVID Safe Practices. Clinical sessions must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance with the Provider (please see the attached document for additional detail).
4. Beginning August 1, 2020 outdoor visitation may begin for Family Members and Guardians for individuals in Supported Living and Intensive Medical Living Services (please see the attached document for additional detail). Indoor visitation is not permitted at this time.
5. **DDSD Re-Opening Committee:** The DDSD Re-Opening Committee will be hosting its fifth meeting with Advocacy Partners on Friday, **July 31st, from 1:00-3:00pm** to continue our conversation regarding the re-opening of services for DD Waiver, Mi Via Waiver, Medically Fragile Waiver, and State General Fund services. Recordings of the meetings can be found at DDSD's COVID-19 page using the following link <https://www.nmhealth.org/about/ddsd/diro/ddcv/>.
6. Attached is guidance from DDSD regarding requirements for team meetings to discuss and plan for COVID-19 related needs and changes to service delivery. If you have questions regarding this document please contact Jennifer Rodriguez, Community Programs Bureau Chief at jennifer.rodriguez@state.nm.us or Christina Hill, Community Programs Deputy Bureau Chief at christina.hill@state.nm.us
7. DDSD has been informed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that retainer payments will not be approved beyond three (3), thirty (30) day periods. DDSD received approval from CMS to authorize retainer payments effective March 16, 2020 through June 30, 2020. This decision from CMS means that retainer payments will not and cannot be extended beyond June 30, 2020.
8. Resource Website: <https://nmhealth.org/about/ddsd/diro/ddcv/>
9. Should I be Tested? <https://cv.nmhealth.org/should-i-get-tested/>
10. Test Portal: <https://cvresults.nmhealth.org/>
11. HSD Portal Page: <https://nmmedicaid.portal.conduent.com/static/covid.htm>
12. New Mexico Crisis Line 1-855-NMCRISIS **1-855-662-7474**.
13. New Mexico Healthcare Worker and First Responder Support Line **1-855-507-5509**



Lastly, should stakeholders have specific questions, concerns, and/or scenarios, please contact your Regional Director. The COVID-19 situation is fluid and will evolve; additional guidance will be provided accordingly.