

March 25, 2020

All DDS Providers:

As I'm sure you are aware, on Monday, the Governor announced important updates to the State of Emergency including:

- Nonessential businesses must close their physical workspaces and facilities to customers, workers, and the public.
- Gatherings are limited to 10 people, a reduction from the previous 25-person limit.
- Child care programs are now closed. Child care programs are now closed. [Exempt Emergency Child Care programs](#) are being made available to provide emergency, back-up, drop-in child care for emergency workers, including essential human service and health care staff.

It is important to note that Group home and facility based residential services are essential and the staff who support individuals in those settings are performing essential work.

There are additional important DDS policy updates related to COVID-19 for group home providers and residents/families, with links to guidance where feasible:

- **All in-person visitation to group homes is now prohibited**, except for certain compassionate care situations, such as an end-of-life situation.
- Providers are urged to develop and implement cleaning, baseline and screening of staff and individuals, quarantine procedures, and staff training in accordance with updated COVID-19 guidance from DPH for [Residential and Congregate Care Programs](#).
- Provider Staff with any of the conditions below are restricted from entering the home:
 - Sick with fever (100.3), cough, or sneezing
 - Recent international travel (i.e., within the past 14 days) from a [COVID-19-affected geographic area](#)
 - Close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- In accordance with the DPH [Stay-at-Home Advisory](#), DDS are suspending short visits with family into the community or to the family home. **If someone wishes to take their family member home with you, the individual must remain with their family for the duration of this public health emergency.**

Please help your residents to assure that families and individuals can continue to communicate regularly by telephone, video, computer or other technological means.

If you have any further questions or concerns please feel free to contact your Area Office or Regional Office.

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