

Information Memorandum Transmittal Developmental Disabilities Services



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Number: APD-IM-20-078

Issue date: 7/7/2020

Topic: Developmental Disabilities

Due date:

Subject: Pandemic Precautions for Foster Care

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>): DD Adult Foster Care providers |
| <input checked="" 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.

It is now expected that adult foster care providers will wear masks when delivering services within six feet of an individual.

For Foster Care Providers:

- A Foster Care Provider or staff who has a medical need not to wear a mask is exempt.
- A foster care provider 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, the Foster Care Provider must document on-going efforts to get them in their personnel records. A Foster Care Provider should contact their Local Health Authority for access to masks and other PPE.

The [24-Hour Residential and Foster Home Setting Provider COVID-19 Policy Guide](#) will be updated to reflect this requirement for foster care providers.

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).

Though obsoleted for the sake of simplifying information, it remains ODDS' intent to continue to sanction providers as announced in [IM-20-045](#).

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:

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