



## DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

### OIFA Member Newsletter - January 2021

#### COVID-19 Still Spreading in Arizona

Arizona continues to see increases in positive COVID-19 cases. The health and safety of members and vendors continues to be DDD's top priority. DDD has implemented many temporary measures to support members and vendors. Everyone must continue to do their part to slow the spread. DDD continues to monitor Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Arizona Department of Health Services guidance. All new guidance is published in the documents available on the [DDD Actions Related to COVID-19](#) web page. Current flexibilities and alternative service delivery options will continue at this time.

You can help slow the spread of COVID-19 by:

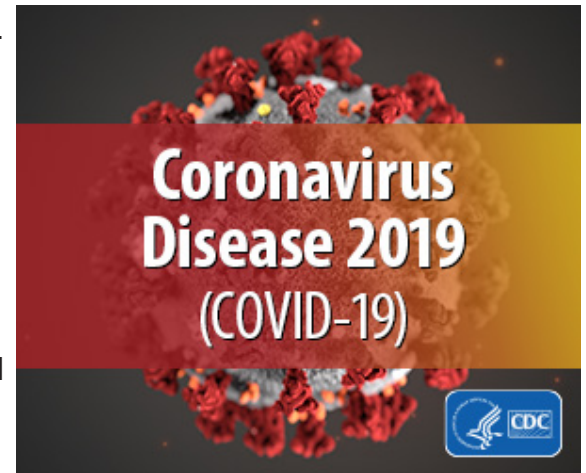
- Maintaining physical distancing of at least 6 feet
- Avoiding large groups and going out if possible
- Wearing a face cover when you are out in public
- Covering your cough or sneeze
- Washing your hands for at least 20 seconds often
- Staying home when you are sick

Learn more about COVID-19 at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> or <http://azhealth.gov/coronavirus>.

#### COVID-19 Vaccine



Arizona has started distributing COVID-19 vaccine. DDD has posted [vaccine information](#) written by the Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center (SARTAC) on its [Actions Related to COVID-19 web page](#). The Arizona Department of Health Services has a [three phase plan](#) for distribution. Counties are currently in Phase 1A or 1B. Your county health department can tell you when you will be eligible to get the vaccine. You can find their contact information at <http://azhealth.gov/findvaccine>. Additional information about the COVID-19 vaccine can be found on the [ADHS website](#).



# COVID Flexibility Extensions

## Respite Benefit

As the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) continues to impact Arizona, AHCCCS has re-authorized the Respite hours benefit limit increase from 600 to 720 hours. The increase is available for the benefit year beginning October 1, 2020 and ending September 30, 2021. Support Coordinators will assess members for this service through the current planning process.

## Home Delivered Meals

On April 20, 2020, the Division authorized the delivery of home delivered meals to eligible ALTCS members during the COVID-19 public health emergency. This service was scheduled to end on December 31, 2020. AHCCCS has authorized the continuation of this service until April 16, 2021.

## Virtual Planning Meetings

Planning meetings are still being held virtually as COVID-19 continues to impact Arizona. These meetings are important and necessary. It is important for all members of the planning team to attend. Members should be involved in the meeting and on the video so their Support Coordinator can see them. The planning meeting is held to ensure they are getting the services they need. Members are encouraged to participate in the meeting and offer input on what they want. Tell your Support Coordinator if you cannot attend online. They can set up a phone call or in-person meeting with all team members instead.

DDD uses Google Meet to host virtual planning meetings. Below are some resources that can help members and families participate:



- [How to Use Google Meet Quick Tutorial \(with Sign Language\)](#)
- [ASL Introduction to Google Meet \(American Sign Language\)](#)
- [How to Translate In a Google Meet](#)

Participants can also use closed captioning. Closed captioning can be turned on by hovering the mouse pointer at the bottom of the screen until the menu appears. Click “Turn On Captions” and as each participant speaks, what they are saying will be displayed under the video image. The captions are only seen on that user’s computer.

## HCBS Directories and Vendor Profiles

Members and families can search for Home and Community Based Service (HCBS) providers online. The [DDD Provider Search](#) tool allows you to search for a provider near you. Select if you want to search for a provider at a facility or one that will come to your home. You can then search by the service type. Your search can be narrowed down by service area, provider name, language and accessibility features. Clicking a provider will bring up details about their business.

You may want to know more about a vendor before you select them to deliver your services. [DDD vendor profiles](#) present data about DDD vendors that members and families can use to make choices

about who provides their services. DDD will continue to update the information to make it more valuable to members and families. If you have ideas about data you would like to see you can reach us at [DDDCustomerServiceCenter@azdes.gov](mailto:DDDCustomerServiceCenter@azdes.gov).

## DDD Seeking Public Comment On New Policy

Arizona voters approved Proposition 207 in the 2020 general election. This made the recreational use of marijuana legal in Arizona. Recreational use of marijuana continues to be illegal federally. In December, DDD met with groups including the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council, Qualified Vendors, members/advocates and members of the Independent Oversight Committees to get a broad understanding of the impact this may have on DDD.



DDD posted a draft policy on Wednesday, January 13, 2021, for public comment. This policy addresses the *Use and Storage of Marijuana (Cannabis) in Residential Settings*. The draft policy is posted on the [Policy page](#) of the Division's website. Instructions for submitting comments can be found in the "Submission of Comments" section.

## Community Resources

DDD has info for local, state, and national groups that support members and their families. The DDD website has links to many of these groups that can assist with day to day tasks and other services that may not be covered by the Division. [Visit the community resources section of the DDD website to learn more.](#)

## Family Caregiver Grant Program

Funding is available through a reimbursement program for family caregivers who provide care for their loved ones in their own homes. Family caregivers can be reimbursed 50% (up to \$1,000 for each qualifying family member) for qualified home modifications and other equipment used to help their loved ones live more independently.

The Family Caregiver Grant Program was established as a result of legislation. The program is for individuals who have qualifying expenses during a calendar year. These expenses must be related to the care and support of a qualifying family member in their home. Applicants can call the Caregiver Resource Line at (888) 737-7494 to apply. Learn more at [azcaregiver.org](http://azcaregiver.org).

## DDD Weekly Town Hall Meetings

DDD is hosting town hall meetings. DDD will present Division news and updates. Other information important to members and families will also be shared. Attendees can also ask questions. Visit <http://bit.ly/dddtownhall> for the schedule and agenda.

## Like DDD On Facebook

Like DDD on Facebook, [@OfficialArizonaDDD](#), and stay connected to the latest news and events.

## Councils and Committees

There are many ways you can volunteer and positively impact the DD community. Visit the [DDD website](#) to see all the councils and committees you can volunteer to be on.

## Crisis Services

If you have an emergency, it is important you get help right away. If you think you might hurt yourself or someone else, please call 911 or a crisis phone number.

### Suicide and Crisis Hotlines by County

- Maricopa County served by Mercy Care: 1-800-631-1314 or 602-222-9444
- Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz and Yuma Counties served by Arizona Complete Health - Complete Care Plan: 1-866-495-6735
- Apache, Coconino, Gila, Mohave, Navajo and Yavapai Counties served by Steward Health Choice Arizona: 1-877-756-4090
- Gila River and Ak-Chin Indian Communities: 1-800-259-3449
- Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community: 1-855-331-6432

### Especially for Teens

- Teen Life Line phone or text: 602-248-TEEN (8336)

### National 24-Hour Crisis Hotlines

#### Phone

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- National Substance Use and Disorder Issues Referral and Treatment Hotline: 1-800-662-HELP (4357)

#### Text

- Text the word "HOME" to 741741

## Get Caught Up

All old OIFA newsletters are available to view on DDD's website. Visit the [Member Services](#) page and click on the "Member Newsletters" section.

## DDD is Here to Help

Please contact your Support Coordinator or the DDD Customer Service Center at 1-844-770-9500 ext. 1 (TTY/TDD 711) if you have questions.

Call the DDD Customer Service Center at 1-844-770-9500 ext. 1, TTY/TDD 711, to ask for this material in other formats. Language help is available at no cost to you.