



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Sent on Behalf of DES/DDD

DDD GUIDANCE DOCUMENT UPDATES

Target Audience - Qualified Vendors and Providers

Transmittal Date - 04/01/2021

On Wednesday, March 31, 2021, the Division updated its *COVID-19 QVA Guidance for Congregate Settings (Group Homes/Developmental Homes) and Direct Care Workers (DCW)* and *Assessing Risk for DDD Members Who Are At Higher Risk for Severe Illness from COVID-19* guidance documents based on new guidance released by [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#). These updates are in addition to those [announced on March 24, 2021](#), related to visitation at congregate settings. The latest update to both documents is a change to the list of underlying conditions that can lead to severe illness as a result of COVID-19 infection. The CDC has simplified the list to make it easier for individuals, the public at large and providers to understand the information related to these underlying conditions. This simplified list includes:

- Cancer
- Chronic Kidney Disease
- Chronic Lung Diseases including COPD, Asthma, Interstitial Lung Disease, Cystic Fibrosis, Pulmonary Hypertension
- Dementia or Other Neurological Conditions
- Diabetes (Type 1 or 2)
- Down Syndrome
- Heart Conditions (such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathies or hypertension)
- HIV Infection
- Immunocompromised state
- Liver disease
- Overweight and obesity
- Pregnancy
- Sickle cell disease or thalassemia
- Smoking, current or former
- Solid organ or blood stem cell transplant
- Stroke or cerebrovascular disease
- Substance use disorders

Qualified Vendors providing residential services are reminded to check both of these documents and to update their pandemic and visitation plans accordingly to ensure compliance with this new guidance.