



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Sent on Behalf of DES/DDD

COVID-19 UPDATE

Target Audience - Qualified Vendors and Providers

Transmittal Date - 03/30/2020

Today, Governor Ducey issued a Stay at Home order for nonessential services beginning April 1, 2020, through April 30, 2020. Under previous orders from the Governor, DES services are considered [essential services](#), which means DES and its contractors will continue to stay open to serve Arizonans in need. Please ensure your agency communicates directly to your staff that their services are essential and that it's critical they continue to come to work to provide support for Division members.

FAQ Updates and Congregate Setting Guidance

Over the weekend, DDD updated its [COVID-19 website](#) to include a significant expansion of the frequently asked questions (FAQ) page as well as additional information as it relates to [suggested procedures and protocols for congregate settings](#). DDD has heard from its provider community that there is a need for more specific guidance to be issued in relation to congregate settings serving the I/DD community. DDD has coordinated with ADHS as well as other state programs for individuals with developmental disabilities and has compiled a [detailed guidance document](#). While DDD is not mandating the use of these procedures and protocols, it is a useful resource to supplement current vendor procedures and protocols.

Update and DDD Services Authorized for Telehealth and Clarification on Billing Guidance

DDD is currently authorizing the following services to be provided via telehealth:

- Speech Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Habilitation with-Music Therapy
- Early Childhood Autism Services (codes ECM and ECB)

Please note that the billing guidance provided on the FAQ relating to telehealth is meant to provide vendors with the appropriate telehealth modifiers, so that vendors can begin providing telehealth services without delay. DDD is currently making changes to its billing system and intends to have new modifiers added by April 8, 2020. Any claims using these new modifiers will deny if billed. Any claims billed before implementation of the new modifiers will assist DDD in tracking use of telehealth services and DDD Business Operations will work with vendors to re-bill.

Small Business Loans

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides \$350 billion in loans to help small businesses maintain employment throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Portions of the loans may be forgiven under specific circumstances outlined in the legislation including costs for maintaining payroll, rent and utilities.

While these opportunities will not take the place of DES/DDD strategies to maintain the DDD provider network during and after the pandemic, DES is providing this [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#) summary of the CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program initiative as an additional resource for providers. Additional details will also be available at [sba.gov](#). Providers should evaluate these opportunities based on the unique circumstances of their business.

Please continue to check the [DDD COVID-19 website](#) for frequent updates and resources related to COVID-19 and its impact on the DDD community.