



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE

BDDS Provider Guidance Adult with In-Home DD Services with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19

The intention of this document is to provide resources to developmental disability service providers when a participant they are serving has suspected or confirmed COVID-19. BDDS encourages each provider to closely follow instructions and guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and your Public Health District. Links for these resources can be located in the “COVID-19 Helpful Resources” section of this document.

ENSURE YOUR PARTICIPANT’S HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Encourage the participant to seek medical attention or call 911 immediately for the following emergency warning signs, or any other significant concerns:
 - Trouble breathing
 - Persistent pain or pressure in chest
 - New confusion or inability to arouse
 - Bluish lips or face
- Request documentation and instructions from the diagnosing provider and/or primary care provider (PCP). Ensure any staff working with suspected or confirmed COVID-19-positive participants has access to these instructions, understands how to follow them, and knows how to reach the PCP in case of questions or changes in status.

ENSURE YOUR STAFF’S HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Staff caring for suspected or confirmed COVID 19 positive participants need full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). No healthcare provider should care for or enter a COVID 19 positive participant’s home without adequate PPE, including mask (ideally respirator; surgical mask if not available), eye protection, gown, and gloves.
 - For more information about PPE, visit the [CDC website](#).
 - For assistance obtaining PPE and receiving training in donning and doffing PPE, contact your either [Regional Public Health District](#) or contact your regional District

Health office directly at the email addresses listed in the “COVID 19 Helpful Resources” section of this document.

- Use the minimal number of staff necessary to care for COVID-19 positive participants.
- **Isolate the participant from other members of the home.** If the participant lives in a home with other residents and can be cared for in an alternate location until healthy, that would be preferred.
- Full PPE should be used, and home isolation continued until resolution of the illness, defined as: (1) at least 3 days (72 hours) since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, (2) improvements in respiratory symptoms, and (3) at least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- Other residents in the suspected or confirmed COVID-19 positive participant’s home need to quarantine at home for at least 14 days after their exposure, to confirm that they have not developed the illness and are not at risk of spreading it to others.
- Staff exposed to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 positive participant without adequate PPE, need to quarantine at home for 14 days.
- Contact the participant’s Targeted Service Coordinator or the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Care Manager to request intense level of care for these participants.

PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

- Staff should train participants’ family members and roommates on [CDC guidelines](#) for decreasing transmission of COVID-19 at home. These include but are not limited to:
 - Quarantining the suspected or confirmed COVID-19 positive participant in his/her bedroom and using a separate bathroom when possible.
 - Not sharing personal items such as towels or dishes.
 - Washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after interacting with COVID-19 positive participant.
 - Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces that are touched often like doorknobs, counters, tabletops, etc.
 - Doing laundry frequently. Wearing gloves and keeping laundry away from the body when handling soiled items. Removing gloves and immediately washing hands after handling dirty laundry.
 - Wearing face covering whenever interacting with the suspected or confirmed COVID-19 positive participant; the sick participant should do the same.

- Avoiding touching your face, eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Avoiding having unnecessary visitors in the home and using delivery services for all essentials, such as groceries and household supplies.

COMMUNICATE AND DOCUMENT

- Contact any other residents of the home or residents' guardians and inform them that someone in the home has suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Ensure to not violate anyone's right to privacy and adhere to all HIPAA guidelines.
- Contact any staff that have worked in the home within the last 14 days and inform them that they have been exposed to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Limit the number of staff working with the suspected or confirmed COVID-19 positive participant. Properly donning and doffing PPE can be difficult and all staff needing to wear PPE should receive training in this.
- Reach out to the Target Service Coordinators for the suspected or confirmed COVID-19 positive participant and for other residents of the home to let them know of the COVID-19 diagnosis. Invite them to coordinate services such as testing, telehealth appointments, canceling transportation, etc.
- Alert BDDS Care Manager of COVID-19 diagnosis. Inquire about any needed changes to services due to result and inform Care Manager of the necessity to back-date or expedite due to emergent situation if needed.
- Agencies are encouraged to document communication activities with participants, families, and staff.

COVID-19 HELPFUL RESOURCES

- REQUESTING PPE:
 - To request PPE, contact your regional public health district:
 - <https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/contact/>
 - Public Health District 1 (Panhandle)
 - PHD1-LOG@phd1.idaho.gov
 - Public Health District 2 (North Central)
 - PHP@phd2.idaho.gov
 - Public Health District 3 (Southwest)
 - Mitch.Kiester@phd3.idaho.gov
 - Public Health District 4 (Central)

- Brent.larson@imd.idaho.gov
 - Public Health District 5 (South Central)
 - phd5-logistics@phd5.idaho.gov
 - Public Health District 6 (Southeastern)
 - ebear@siph.idaho.gov
 - Public Health District 7 (Eastern)
 - tnelson@eiph.idaho.gov
 - hpetererson@eiph.idaho.gov
- CDC COVID-19 GENERAL INFORMATION: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC COVID-19 INFECTION CONTROL FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/using-ppe.html>
- CDC COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR FAMILIES OF COVID+ INDIVIDUALS: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/care-for-someone.html>
- OFFICIAL STATE OF IDAHO CORONAVIRUS WEBSITE: <https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/>