



**COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting**  
**March 24, 2020**



## General Information

As of the time of this meeting, 3-24-2020, there are 58 confirmed cases and 2 deaths in the County. We are continuing to improve the website, now located at [www.bit.ly/COVID19DHSProviders](http://www.bit.ly/COVID19DHSProviders).

- You can find daily briefings, slides and frequently asked questions.
- We're posting information under various subjects like child welfare, food assistance, homelessness and housing.
- You can reach us at [DHS-COVID19planning@allegHENYcounty.us](mailto:DHS-COVID19planning@allegHENYcounty.us)

Supplies continue to be difficult to get; we are continuing our efforts to get critical supplies for providers and staff.

If you are in need of volunteers, contact Wendy Koch at United Way at [wendy.koch@unitedwayswpa.org](mailto:wendy.koch@unitedwayswpa.org)

## Legislative/Policy Updates

Your work is exempt from the stay-at-home order because it is essential to health and human services for the region.

- Government work is also exempt from the stay-at-home order.
- Allowable activities include getting or providing necessary supplies or services and travel required by law enforcement or court order.
- You've all received a letter from Marc Cherna stating that you are doing essential work and thus exempt from the order.
  - Please keep a copy of this letter available at your offices and share it with staff electronically so they can present it should they be stopped while driving.
  - You can find the [letter at this link](#) and at [www.bit.ly/COVID19DHSProviders](http://www.bit.ly/COVID19DHSProviders).

The Senate is in the final stages of negotiation for "Phase 3" legislation, with a House bill as a back-up.

- We'll share details on bill provisions and impact once available.

The PA Primary is now going to be delayed until June 2nd (per Governor and General Assembly).

- Changes are detailed in SB 422, which is expected to pass this week.

Beginning tomorrow, the Port Authority is reducing bus and rail service by 25% due to decreased ridership.

Pennsylvania Emergency Management (PEMA) information:

- County, non-profits, municipalities and authorities should use the survey link below to record the cost of services related to COVID-19:
  - Survey Link: <https://arcg.is/1qDXiH>
  - See <https://www.allegHENYcountyanalytics.us/index.php/2020/03/19/other-provider-resources/> for Eligible FEMA Protective Services and Cost Estimating Survey Tool
- Initial submission covers the period of 1/20/2020 through 3/25/2020.
- Initial submission is due by 3pm on Wednesday, 3/25.
- Submissions are then due weekly.

## Food

We continue to hear about the increased need for food.

- The school lunch programs are working well.

We encourage you to use the [Food distribution map as the](#) most updated source of information.

- The map is located at the food section of the website.
- The map allows you to make corrections and submit additional food sites.
- Please email us if you have a new site (address) or are aware of a site that's not distributing food.
- Please feel free to blast it to your networks.

We held our first food access call today.

- The next food access call is on Thursday, 3/26/2020 at 3:30.
- Email Amy Malen ([amy.malen@allegHENYcounty.us](mailto:amy.malen@allegHENYcounty.us)) to be added to the invitation for these calls.

Please complete the [Food Access Survey](#) by the end of the day tomorrow, 3/26/2020.

- It should only take 5-10 minutes.
- We will share the results with the United Way, all of you and other partners.

### AAA food information

- If you know of a senior looking for a meal, please call the Senior Line at 412-350-5460.
- We are procuring shelf stable items in addition to frozen meals.
- We are working with providers to evaluate food plans.
  - Our focus is on trying to prevent future food insecurity.

## **Program Updates**

### AAA

- We are continuing to identify very frail and/or vulnerable people in need of in-home services.
- We are continuing to conduct mandated investigations of elder abuse.
- We have been getting a considerable number of scamming calls related to COVID-19.
  - If you hear of any scamming calls, please contact the Senior Line at 412-350-5460.

### OCS

- Childcare for essential employees:
  - Please share ELRC contact information ([elrc5@allegHENYcounty.us](mailto:elrc5@allegHENYcounty.us) or 412-350-3577) with your essential employees
- Employment information:
  - Partner4Work provides information for workers, jobseekers and youth <https://www.partner4work.org/news/covid-19-resources/>
  - The Mon Valley Initiative is available to assist displaced workers.
    - MVI is currently conducting intakes and assisting individuals remotely.
    - Contact: Dr. T. Charles Howell IV, [chowell@monvalleyinitiative.com](mailto:chowell@monvalleyinitiative.com) or at 412.464.4000 x 4027.
- Homeless network:
  - We are hearing that staffing is an issue.
    - Please reach out to DHS if you are having staffing problems and we will put out a call.
  - Isolation and Quarantine space

- The US Council on Homelessness, in a webinar with Seattle, pointed out that isolation and quarantine space is very important.
- We have 3 facilities coming online for specialized populations in the near future.
- We are working with a group of hotels that will provide a total of 130-220 units.
- Please contact Cynthia Shields ([Cynthia.shields@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Cynthia.shields@alleghenycounty.us)) if you are interested in helping to staff these locations.
- To access any of these units, contact [housingnavigators@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:housingnavigators@alleghenycounty.us).
- Please utilize whatever isolation/quarantine rooms or spaces are available to you first before tapping into these new units.
- Rob Eamigh sent out a landlord self-inspection checklist for virtual walkthroughs of apartments.
  - In addition to the checklist, the landlord can film the unit.
- As you develop new checklists and other tools, please share them with us and we will disseminate them across the network.
- **Next week only** the provider call will be on a different day/time, Wednesday April 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30am.

### Behavioral Health

- Providers are concerned about call offs; as of yet, there have been no significant disruptions.
- Most treatment services are now available through telehealth.
  - Please continue to maintain contact with your clients.
  - Some privacy/confidentiality requirements have been waived but you must continue to follow all other privacy and confidentiality guidelines.
- The volume of service requests is decreasing but we are asking you to keep your doors open.
  - We are working on an alternative payment arrangement to make it possible for you to continue providing services.
- Notify DHS of any changes to your standard operations.
  - Submit Unusual Incident reports for service closures.
- CCBH is working to update provider credentialing and recredentialing because those processes can take a while.
  - For more information visit: <https://providers.ccbh.com/>.
- We are assessing the status of Certified Assessment Centers (CACs).
  - At this time, we have no reports of decreases in intake for drug and alcohol services.
- All MH commitment hearings are being conducted via audio.
  - Contact IRES Manager Michael Rocco at 412-350-4456 with questions.
- Licensed behavioral health care practitioners are permitted to provide services via telemedicine (see <https://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/State-details.aspx?newsid=375>).
- Early intervention services are being impacted by the current crisis and we are working closely with the state and the Alliance for Infants and Toddlers to address this impact.
- A BH Best Practice call is scheduled for Wednesday, 3/25 at 3pm
- A BH provider meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 3/26 at 10am.

### OID/Autism

- ODP Announcement 20-019 has been updated to include guidance for Supports Coordination Organizations about monitoring individuals.
  - The guidance reinforces social distancing.
- ODP has issued Announcement 20-027, Operational Guide for Appendix K: Emergency Preparedness and Response for the P/FDS, Community Living, Consolidated Waivers and Adult Autism Waivers.
  - Specifies temporary measures to loosen regulations, especially around staff shortages.
  - Three trainings to specific audiences are to begin later today (3/24) and tomorrow (3/25).
  - Virtual Office Hours for specific provider audiences are available March 27 and March 30.
- We continue to follow local information and directives, along with information from the PA Department of Health and the State Office of Developmental Programs.
  - There are links to COVID-19 updates on MyODP.org: <https://www.myodp.org/mod/page/view.php?id=26808>
- Incident management staff started last week, and will continue weekly, to monitor staffing issues.

#### CYF

- No updates since the last provider meeting on 3/23/2020.
  - Funding and staffing are stable.
- In our CYF provider meeting today, we prioritized planning as to what teleconferencing looks like for our services.

#### Courts/Fifth Judicial District

- Judges Kim Berkeley Clark, Kim D. Eaton, Dwayne D. Woodruff and Court Administrator for Family Division Cynthia K. Stoltz joined today's call.
- They shared more information about the [March 23 order detailing emergency operations](#), which closed many court locations and introduced social distancing measures (see slides for details).
- Virtual operations are going well and the courts will continue to adapt quickly.
- Cases are being triaged so that judges are hearing only urgent cases and those that can be resolved in a timely fashion.
  - Emergency motions are continuing.
  - ICC Police Complaints will be accepted.
  - Bail hearings will be held before a magisterial district judge using ACT.
- The judges provided the following guidance on PFAs:
  - All Temporary PFA matters are being handled at the Pittsburgh Municipal Court Building, via ACT (8 am – 2pm, M-F)
  - Temporary PFA orders will remain in effect until fifteen (15) days after the end of the judicial emergency unless otherwise indicated in the Temporary Order (Judge Clark may extend this 15-day window).
  - Emergency Protection from Abuse petitions are being heard remotely by magisterial district judges Monday through Friday, 2pm to 8pm, and 24 hours/day on Saturdays and Sundays.
  - Final Protection of Abuse hearings are suspended

- Court orders trump the Shelter in Place order.
- Things are changing rapidly. Keep checking the [Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania website](#) daily, where you can find the March 23rd order, numbers for people to call and FAQs. It is updated daily.

### Transportation

- Traveler's Aid has reduced operations.
  - Lyft and Uber rides through TA are suspended.
- ACCESS and MATP are stable.

### **Key Contacts**

- [DHS-COVID19planning@allegHENYcounty.us](mailto:DHS-COVID19planning@allegHENYcounty.us) for questions. Use the subject line to indicate the type of question you are submitting (e.g., program area, DHS operations).
- See the slide presentation for other key contacts.

**SEE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS RAISED AT TODAY'S CALL**