



**COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting**  
**March 25, 2020**



## General Information

As of the time of this meeting, 3-25-2020 at 4:30pm, there are 88 confirmed cases and 2 deaths in the County.

- Age and gender distributions can be found on our website at [www.bit.ly/COVID19DHSPROVIDERS](http://www.bit.ly/COVID19DHSPROVIDERS)
- The Health Department is working hard to get a dashboard up and running, to provide additional information.

We are and will continue to improve the website ([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.
- Reach us with questions or other issues at [DHS-COVID19planning@allegHENYCOUNTY.US](mailto:DHS-COVID19planning@allegHENYCOUNTY.US).

If you are in need of volunteers, contact Wendy Koch at United Way at 412-721-5221 or [wendy.koch@unitedwayswpa.org](mailto:wendy.koch@unitedwayswpa.org)

- United Way's Covid-19 volunteer website will be online soon.
  - It will be promoted on social media and we will include it in our updates.
- As of now, United Way has only identified a handful of volunteer opportunities.
  - We hope to identify more opportunities from responses to the food survey.
  - We have heard from a number of organizations and individuals interested in helping.
  - We are focusing on basic needs.
- United Way is also posting virtual volunteer events.

## Legislative/Policy Updates

As a reminder, your work is exempt from the stay-at-home order because it is essential to health and human services for the region.

- 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 "Phase 3" Stimulus legislation is pending, with Senate and house votes scheduled for this afternoon and tomorrow (3/26).

- Detail about proposed funding amounts can be found in the slides from today's presentation.

More than half a million Pennsylvanians have filed new unemployment claims during the past week.

- A bill expected to pass the PA House will pay anyone employed by a public school as if the pandemic had not occurred. Senate expected to vote on bill later today, 3/25/2020.

Gov. Wolf and lawmakers are discussing a possible emergency relief hospital fund to be administered by the Department of Health, but no agreement has been reached yet.

An attempt by 5 members of Allegheny County Council to change jail rules to release inmates was defeated.

- We will provide a detailed update on jail releases at tomorrow's (3/26/2020) briefing.
- For now, you can find information at the [jail dashboard on www.AlleghenyCountyAnalytics](#).

## **Food**

We are focusing on developing mechanisms to get food closer to people, contingency plans for sites that must close, meeting additional demand and developing/implementing food-related processes for families in quarantine.

- We are working closely with the United Way and the foundation community to devise solutions.
- We are also working on a solution for the diaper and formula shortage.

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

- The map is located in 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.

The next food access call is on Thursday, 3/26/2020 at 3:30pm.

- Email Amy Malen ([amy.malen@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:amy.malen@alleghenycounty.us)) to be added to the invitation for these calls.

If you haven't yet completed the [Food Access Survey](#), please do so ASAP.

- We will share the final results with all of you as well as with the United Way and other partners.

## AAA food information

- Requests for food for seniors are increasing, but we are still within our capacity to deliver these meals.
- We were able to put in an order for more shelf stable items.
- We are collecting the names of volunteers to share with providers who have a need.
  - Volunteers with clearances are preferred.

## **Program Updates**

### AAA

- We have been getting reports of a considerable number of scamming calls related to COVID-19.
  - One phone scam involves people claiming to be from the CDC and requesting banking/credit card information.
  - If you hear of any scamming calls, please contact the Senior Line at 412-350-5460.
  - Please advise any seniors you know about the danger of this and other scams.

## 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.
  - There are currently about 250 open slots around the county
  - More providers are standing by to address additional demand.
- Employment information:
  - Partner4Work information for workers, jobseekers and youth <https://www.partner4work.org/news/covid-19-resources/>
  - JF&CS Career Development Center offers intakes, individualized services and workshops for anyone recently laid off.
    - All services are virtual or via telephone.
    - Contact JF&CS at 412-422-5627 or 412-586-3722, or email Wendy Solomon, intake specialist, at [wsolomon@jfcspgh.org](mailto:wsolomon@jfcspgh.org).
  - 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 continuing to work on isolation and quarantine space.
    - Facility 1 (single room occupancy for homeless individuals currently in shelter or on the streets) will be open within the next week.
  - **Next week only** the provider call will be on a different day/time, Wednesday April 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30am. See slide for call-in information.

## Behavioral Health

- We are monitoring supplies and staffing. So far, we have seen no adverse impact on services.
- A BH provider meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 3/26 at 10am. This will take place weekly on Thursdays going forward (starting 4/2/2020) from 10-11am.
- We are modifying our intake forms to reflect the requirement for all providers to report client illness.
- Drug and Alcohol
  - Certified Assessment Centers (CACs) will not open on 4/1 as scheduled.
    - Level of care assessments are still available as usual.
    - At this time, we have no reports of decreases in intake for drug and alcohol services.
  - Residential providers now have the option to flex beds. Contact DDAP licensing directly for more information.
  - Annual monitoring is being postponed and will be rescheduled after the crisis.
- Mental Health
  - All Mental Health commitment hearings are being conducted via audio.
    - Contact IRES Manager Michael Rocco at 412-350-4456 with questions.

- All affected facilities have been notified.
  - We are working on ways to continue to provide social rehabilitation supports.
- 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.
    - Vision, hearing and nutrition services are allowable, but tele-delivery is a challenge due to the nature of the services. We are working with providers to address this challenge.
    - Social work and nursing services are not covered.
    - Assessments and initial evaluations will be conducted via telehealth.

#### OID/Autism

- Providers are sending us supply needs and we are working to meet them.
- We have heard about 4 individuals and staff who have been tested for Covid-19.
  - Two came back negative and we are continuing to monitor the results
- We continue to follow local information and directives, along with information from the PA Department of Health and the State Office of Developmental Programs.
- For links to COVID-19 updates on MyODP.org, go to <https://www.myodp.org/mod/page/view.php?id=26808>

#### CYF

- Funding and staffing remain stable.
- Thank you to our thoughtful partners, including Beverly's Birthdays, who are meeting critical needs by helping us deliver supplies.
- Referrals have decreased by a frightening amount.
  - Please check in on children and families through teleconferencing.
  - Please reach out if you need help installing teleconferencing capability.
- Family Links' teen healing center will open on Monday, 3/30/2020.
  - Teens who have tested positive for COVID-19 can recover there.
- We are asking providers to help us prioritize which families need to be seen.
- If you are hiring emergency staff, we can run clearances for you (except for FBI fingerprints).

#### Courts/Fifth Judicial District

- We continue to operate under the [March 23 order detailing emergency operations](#).
- [Custody orders remain in effect](#) and are unaffected by the governor's stay-at-home 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

- No new updates since yesterday 3/24.

**HOW TO CONTACT US:**

Email: [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).

Website: [www.bit.ly/COVID19DHSProviders](http://www.bit.ly/COVID19DHSProviders)

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