



COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting
April 29, 2020



General Information

As of the time of this meeting (4-29-2020 at 4:30 pm) there are 1,273 confirmed cases and 86 deaths in the County.

- The Health Department's [dashboard](#) provides additional information.
- The Hospital Association of Pennsylvania's [dashboard](#) shows information such as bed utilization.
- The [new CMU maps](#) are getting a lot of attention, using information from Facebook and Google.

Please submit stories and photos of how you are meeting client needs during this time to:

Evelyn.Whitehill@AlleghenyCounty.US

Remote learning

We have compiled all the continuity of learning plans and put them into [this spreadsheet](#). We will update weekly to reflect new information. Please email DHS-COVID19Planning@AlleghenyCounty.US with updates as you learn about them.

A few highlights:

- As noted in [this WESA story](#), most remote learning does not include live instruction.
- Many districts currently do not have capacity to provide 1:1 access to devices.
 - The AIU expects a shipment of devices this week to be deployed directly to districts. They are working as quickly as they can to get devices out, and so is PPS. There is a supply issue.
- Initial district planning focused on the short term, but districts are now planning for the rest of the school year and contingency planning for summer and fall.
- According to the AIU and PPS, districts report that they are identifying and engaging with most students, but they are still struggling to locate some.
- Pittsburgh Public Schools updates
 - High School: All seniors who needed a device should now have one. Students in grade 9-11 who need a device are receiving laptops this week. Students in need of a device should be in touch with their schools. Additional information can be found on the [PPS webpage](#). High school students will not use packets going forward.
 - Early Learning – Grade 8: Packets will come out every 2 weeks through the end of the school year. The next packet pick-up is next Monday and Tuesday (May 4-5). If providers have capacity, they can pick up and deliver packets to families who cannot get out of the house. Packets are now posted on the [PPS webpage](#).

How DHS Can Support

- Keep providers up-to-date on how they can best support your families.
 - DHS can host call(s) for providers to hear updates re: remote learning. We are gauging the appetite for this.
- Compile and share what we know about:
 - District remote learning plans
 - Technology (device and internet) resources
- Connect directly with children and families

- DHS staff (Focus on Attendance, education liaisons, etc.) are reaching out to children and youth to check on remote learning status.
- If requested, DHS can provide additional contact information to districts that may help with outreach.

How You Can Support Educational Efforts

- Ask children and families if they are connected with their school and set up for remote learning.
 - Fill out the [laptop request form](#) if needed.
 - Help with picking up learning materials, if needed
 - Share information about how to get in touch with school, tech support or tutoring.
 - Gwen's Girls is offering remote tutoring. See the slide presentation for session dates and times, and registration information.

Laptop Requests for DHS Clients

As a reminder, DHS is providing laptops for clients who need them to access visits with caseworkers, visits with family, tele-health, tele-therapy, or school/learning. To request a laptop for a client:

1. Requestor fills out form <https://bit.ly/DHSCOV19Form>.
2. DHS validates client information and need.
3. DHS contacts requestor to arrange for pick-up at HSB or to make other arrangements.

There are supply issues, but we are working with partners to provide as many as possible.

We are also thinking about ways to support internet access.

We have gotten about 70 requests so far and we do have devices in stock.

We hope to share more information on the recruitment platform on Friday, 5-1-2020, and launch the recruitment platform on Monday 5-4-2020.

- We have scheduled a session for HR folks for Tuesday, May 5th at 10 am.

We are continuing to improve our website, located at www.bit.ly/COVID19DHSPROVIDERS.

- The [Operational Changes Tracker](#) is now live.
- We have reorganized the site, moving all program-specific information to a menu bar on the top of the site.
- You can reach us by email at DHS-COVID19planning@alleghenycounty.us. We will answer all questions and elevate issues to inform the network.

Legislative/Policy Updates

Federal Updates

5th Federal stimulus bill: Early stages of negotiations underway, including discussions on how to aid local and state governments.

State and local updates

- Gov. Wolf beginning budget negotiations with the goal of a full-year budget for the state. Starting place is the proposed budget from February that had a 4% increase overall from this current fiscal year.

- However, General Assembly Republicans (who are in the majority) are seeking a short-term budget until the fall, to see how revenue collections have gone.
- City of Pittsburgh awarded over \$12m in CARES Act funds.
 - \$4.2m in Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) to homelessness and housing providers.
 - \$8.4m in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for food assistance through food banks and for small business loans through the URA.

Food

[PA Food Recovery Infrastructure Grant Application](#) is due on Friday, May 8th. The grant covers equipment purchases necessary to prepare, transport and store food. Installation and shipping costs are also eligible.

The Food Access Provider call is on Tuesdays at 3:30 pm. See slide presentation for call-in information.

AAA food information

- Farmers Market Vouchers allow seniors to purchase fresh food from farmers markets. The PA Department of Aging is working with AAA to make sure the vouchers will be available on time and distributed, using an alternate distribution method.

Program Updates

AAA

- No new updates since 4-24-2020.

OCS

- For childcare resources, please share ELRC contact information (elrc5@alleghenycounty.us or 412-350-3577) with your essential employees.
- We have moved employment information and resources to [our website](#).
- Homeless network
 - Safe Haven Hotel
 - About 40 individuals are currently housed. Some people are beginning to return home.
 - We are now opening the referral process to healthcare providers.
 - Referrals are now accepted from homelessness shelters, street outreach providers, refugee and immigrant services, and healthcare providers. Any provider with an individual in urgent need of safe haven should reach out to your DHS contact.
 - Homeless client referral contact: Jessica McKown
Jessica.Mckown@alleghenycounty.us
 - Jail referral contact: Jenn Batterton
Jennifer.Batterton@AlleghenyCounty.US
 - OBH referral contact: Diane Johnson
Diane.Johnson@AlleghenyCounty.US

- Immigrants and Internationals referral contact: Brenda Green
bgreen@jfcspgh.org
- CHS still needs staff. Please refer people to [apply here](#). Organizations interested in loaning staff should contact Cynthia Shields directly.
(Cynthia.Shields@alleghenycounty.us)
- Provider Network Meeting is held every Tuesday at 9:30 am, call-in information is in the slide presentation

Behavioral Health

- Behavioral Health Provider Meeting has been rescheduled to tomorrow, 4-30-2020, at **10 am**. See the slide presentation for call-in information.
- Webinar Opportunities
 - SAMHSA's updated TTA resources to assist with the current situation can be found [here](#).
 - [Tips for talking with your teen and how SAP can be a resource webinar](#)
 - April 30 – 10 am
 - [Trauma-Informed, Resilience-Oriented Leadership During a Pandemic](#)
 - May 11 – 6 to 7 pm
 - [Responding to COVID-19 – Telehealth](#)
 - Various dates and times
 - DDAP is offering a series of Gambling Webinars, [registration information can be found here](#)
- Early Intervention
 - OCDEL is holding webinars on Wednesday and Thursday of next week, for EI families, on the use of telehealth in early intervention services. See the slide presentation for call-in information.
 - [Option 1](#): Wednesday May 13th, 2:00-3:15 pm
 - [Option 2](#): Thursday May 14th, 2:00-3:15 pm
 - We are advocating for retroactive back billing for our providers and will let you know when we learn more about this.
 - There are plenty EI services available; please help to get the word out.

OID/Autism

- [HCQU PA COVID-19 Packet 3](#) – incorporates some additional strategies and best practices.
- [ODP Announcement 20-049 \(revised\)](#) - Reporting Cases of COVID-19 and Requesting Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- The state wants to learn about innovative practices for service delivery during this time. You can email them to shirlene.harris@us.ibm.com.
- As a reminder, continue to follow local information and directives, along with the PA Department of Health and the State Office of Developmental Programs. There are links to COVID-19 updates on MyODP.org at <https://www.myodp.org/mod/page/view.php?id=26808>.

CYF

- We are continuing to celebrate staff and providers who are going above and beyond.

Courts/Jail

- As a reminder, you can help clients find rescheduled court dates using [this link](#).
- A complete how-to guide has been posted [on our website](#).

Transportation

- No new updates since 4-9-2020. Services are available.

How to Reach Us

- Email us at DHS-COVID19planning@allegHENYcounty.us with questions. Use the subject line to indicate the type of question you are submitting (e.g., program area, DHS operations).
- The COVID Hotline is 2-1-1 and the Health Department's line is 412-687-2243.
- See the slide presentation for other key contacts.

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