



COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting
April 8, 2020



General Information

As of the time of this meeting (4-8-2020 at 4:30 pm) there are 720 confirmed cases and 6 deaths in the County.

- The health department released a [new dashboard](#) today which provides more detail and new information such as the number of tests administered.

Communicating Changes in Operations:

If you have changes in operations, continue to report that information to DHS staff. Please also use this process if you have edits/changes to what has already been reported.

- For BH providers, complete the Office of Behavioral Health Incident Report form and email the completed form to: incidentreports@allegHENYcounty.us.
- For homeless providers, fill out the incident report form and email the completed form to your assigned monitor and cynthia.shields@allegHENYcounty.us.
- Others: DHS-COVID19Planning@allegHENYcounty.us.

An Operational Changes Tracker will be made public soon.

Earl Buford from Partner4Work joined the call to share information about employment.

- We are convening stakeholders in nine key industries to communicate employment opportunities and forecast future needs
- Unemployment Compensation information (additional guidance from the state is expected):
 - The CARES Act provides an additional \$600 per week to individuals receiving unemployment benefits from 3-29-2020 through 7-31-2020.
 - The PA Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) is currently modifying the UC system to issue these payments.
 - UC recipients will not need to submit additional information.
 - The CARES Act also provides up to 13 additional weeks of benefits for those exhausting UC benefits (through 12-31-2020).
 - PA L&I will update the UC website with instructions on accessing these benefits.
 - The CARES Act will provide unemployment benefits to the self-employed, independent contractors and gig workers through 12-21-2020.
 - PA L&I will provide separate filing instructions.
- Resource Links
 - Partner4Work launched a [COVID-19 Resource Page](#).
 - It contains information for businesses, partner organizations, workers, job seekers and youth.
 - Partner information includes training resources for workforce development providers.
 - [PA CareerLink](#)'s locations are closed but are providing virtual services, including a [Hot Jobs](#) list.
 - Your jobs can be posted here if you have surge hiring needs.
 - The Commonwealth is creating a more dynamic hiring resource and CareerLink will post it once it is available.
 - PA CareerLink cannot answer most questions about UC
 - UC information can be found at the [state website](#).
 - [Learn & Earn](#), the summer youth employment program, is currently recruiting.

The FISA Foundation compiled this list of funding sources:

- [Emergency Action Fund-The Pittsburgh Foundation](#)
- [Richard King Mellon Foundation-COVID-19 Response Initiatives](#)
- [Behavioral Health Nonprofits Emergency Funding- Staunton Farm Foundation](#)
- [Crisis Mitigation Relief Fund- New Sun Rising](#)
- [Community Foundation of Greene County Emergency Response Fund](#)
- [Neighborhood Allies](#)

As a reminder, on Friday 4-3-2020, Governor Wolf called for all Pennsylvanians to wear a mask when leaving home. [Click here](#) to learn more about universal masking, along with tips on making a homemade mask.

Continue to order masks (all types) through Allegheny County Emergency Services (ACES).

- For agencies affiliated with large healthcare agencies (e.g., Mercy, UPMC, AHN), contact your parent agency to submit supply requests.
- For all other providers, please complete the Allegheny County Emergency Services (ACES) [Resource Request Form](#) and email it to Richard.Colella@AlleghenyCounty.us AND Michael.Spurr@AlleghenyCounty.us.
- Please CC us on your supply requests at DHS-COVID19Planning@alleghenycounty.us.
- Limit requests to fewer than 500 items at a time to expedite the requests. Bigger requests will not get filled.
- We are hearing that supplies are moving more reliably to ACES at this time (with the exception of gowns).

Family Strengths Survey

- Please continue to ask families in your network and those of your community partners to complete this survey by going here: <https://www.pediatrics.pitt.edu/family-strengths-survey>.
 - We are asking families to tell us what life is like in their household during the pandemic – about their strengths and challenges.
 - Participants will have a chance to win a \$100 gift card (5 people randomly selected each week from everyone who answers the survey).

Free Technology Help for Community-Based Organizations:

- The University of Pittsburgh is providing free technology support with connecting to the internet, accessing email, using computers and computer applications, setting up mobile technology and troubleshooting software problems.
 - To access, call 412-624-6007, Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

We are continuing to improve our website, located at 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, and payments and DHS operations. We keep adding things to these sections so keep checking back.
- 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

State and local updates

- Republican legislation advanced out of the Appropriations Committee in the PA House to allow more businesses to be open during the crisis (in contradiction to the orders of Gov. Wolf and the Secretary of Health).
- Pittsburgh City Council voted to extend the city's Declaration of Disaster Emergency through May 5, including stay-at-home and social distancing orders.

Food

This week is “spring break”, meaning there will be some changes to school districts’ food distributions,

- Consult the [food map](#) for changes.
- Please help us get the word out that there is still food available.
- 412 Food Rescue is providing bus stop food distributions.
 - Check [412 Food Rescue’s Facebook page](#) for daily bus stop updates.

Provider Food Access Calls are held on Tuesdays at 3:30. See slide presentation for call-in information.

AAA food information

- No new updates since 4-8-2020.

Program Updates

AAA

- While the total volume of calls has decreased slightly, the Senior Line is experiencing a higher volume of complex calls that require intensive information & assistance services.
- AAA is seeing a decrease in reports of need to Older Adult Protective Services (OAPS).
 - Emergency situations involving at-risk older adults can and are being reported to OAPS at any time, including nights and weekends.
 - We encourage you to file reports at 412-350-6905.

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
 - We continue to work on isolation and quarantine space.
 - We are now accepting referrals from street outreach providers. Please reach out to Cynthia Shields Cynthia.Shields@AlleghenyCounty.US for street outreach referral guidance and procedures.
 - Other referral mechanisms will be set up soon.
 - The provider call is on Tuesdays at 9:30am. Call-in information is in the slide presentation.

Behavioral Health

- CMS
 - CMS published an [Accelerated/Advance Payment Program fact sheet](#).
 - CMS is holding a special Open Door Forum, “CMS Hospital Without Walls During COVID-19 Public Health Emergency” tomorrow, 4-9-2020, at 1:30 pm.
 - See slide presentation for call-in information
 - CMS is holding [COVID-19 Office Hours](#) tomorrow, 4-0-2020 at 5 pm.
 - Submit questions in advance to partnership@cms.hhs.gov.
- Support and Referral Help Lines
 - The PA DHS Support & Referral Helpline is available 24/7 at 1-855-284-2494.
 - [NAMI: National Alliance on Mental Illness](#) is available M-F 9 am-5 pm at 1-888-264-7972.
- Drug and Alcohol
 - Community Care Behavioral Health has issued [new provider guidance](#).
 - DDAP is hosting a [webinar on Gambling Addiction](#) tomorrow, 4-9-2020, at 2 pm.
 - [Message from Secretary Smith](#) related to DDAP and COVID-19.
 - To be added to DDAP’s listserv and receive updates, please email RAPressoffice@pa.gov .
- Meeting schedule updates
 - BH weekly provider meeting is tomorrow morning (Thursday), 4-9-2020, at 10 am.
 - See slide presentation for call-in information.
 - Residential Provider Meeting is on Friday, 4-10-2020, at 9 am.
 - See invite for call-in information.
- Early intervention
 - Upcoming Webinars for Families
 - [Families of Children receiving Infant/Toddler EI services](#) on 4-15-2020 at 12 pm
 - [Families of Children receiving Preschool EI Services](#) on 4-152020 at 2 pm

OID/Autism

- Continue to follow local information and directives, along with the PA Department of Health and the State Office of Developmental Programs.
 - Links to COVID-19 updates can be found at MyODP.org.

CYF

- No new updates since 4-6-2020.

Courts/Jail

- The Jail announced today that one inmate has tested positive for coronavirus and that the individual and their cell mate have been quarantined since the onset of symptoms.
 - Contract tracing will occur, following guidance provided by the Allegheny County Health Department.
- The PA Supreme Court [denied the request](#) to invoke its King’s Bench authority to order the immediate presumptive release of specified categories of incarcerated persons to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in county correctional institutions.

- The same decision was made for Juvenile Detention.

Transportation

- Traveler's Aid Update
 - Methadone Clinic transportation will continue with limited staff starting on 4-20-2020.
 - New clients will be accepted to the program
 - Replacement gas cards and bus passes will be provided, as needed.
 - To limit contact, new Connect cards will be issued to clients instead of reloading an existing card.
 - Traveler's Aid will limit the number of clients in the office at a time.
 - See the slide presentation for April hours of operation.

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 687-2243.
- See the slide presentation for other key contacts.

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