



COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting
May 11, 2020



General Information

As of the time of this meeting (5-11-2020 at 4:30 pm) there are 1,511 confirmed cases and 123 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.

We invite you to submit your ideas about how to help people in Allegheny County at <https://neighborland.com/alleghenycounty/home?preview=c9ad1489989a4c44>.

- We are very excited about the responses so far. Please keep sharing the link!

Global Links Supply Distribution

Since DHS partnered with Global Links, we have jointly distributed:

- Over 12,000 N95 protective masks
- Roughly 35,000 emergency surgical masks
- Over 3,000 full face shields
- Nearly 37,000 pairs of exam gloves
- Nearly 1,500 adult incontinence products

The link to submit a request is: <https://www.tfaforms.com/4813339>.

Client Laptop requests

- We plan to distribute more than 200 Chromebooks later this week and have more on the way!
- The link to submit a request is: <https://bit.ly/DHSCOV19Form>.
- We are also looking at Wi-Fi access throughout the County.

DHS is working on reopening guidance for the following groups: all providers (direct care and residential), 24/7 providers, DHS staff and workplace, and DHS direct care.

- We are doing research on federal and state guidelines. We will continue to update as these change, so this will be a living document.
- We will circulate draft guidance for comment this week.
- Guidance will cover client interactions, personnel policies, and changes to the workspace and workspace monitoring.
- Please send your questions to DHS-COVID19planning@alleghenycounty.us.

Dr. Kristen Ray of the Pittsburgh Study joined the call.

- The study been conducting a weekly Family Strengths Survey since April 2nd.
 - The goal is to understand how families are doing and their ability to support their children during this time.
- Here is what families said about their ability to provide for their kids:
 - Families felt least able to keep their children connected and feeling well-adjusted socially and emotionally.
 - Parents and caregivers are also struggling with feeling well adjusted socially and emotionally.

- Families are feeling increasingly more able to protect their families from COVID-19 as time goes on.
- Here is what families said about their needs:
 - Unmet needs for childcare have been increasing; this was the most frequently reported need in the most recent week.
 - Those identifying as Black (non-Hispanic) and Hispanic reported unmet needs at disproportionately higher rates, with the Hispanic community reporting especially high need for food assistance and financial support for utilities. These data were used to brainstorm with 2-1-1 about how to better serve and reach these communities.
 - Geographically, they divided the County into 8 regions. Unmet material needs were highest in the eastern suburbs and family support/educational/child care needs were highest in the City of Pittsburgh.
 - Write-in needs included:
 - Food access
 - Financial, intersecting financial and transportation needs (SNAP/WIC), transportation with kids
 - Unemployment applications
 - Delays in process, uncertainty with process
 - Mental health
 - Children & parents
 - Childcare
 - Balancing work, school and childcare; anticipating return to work without childcare
- What you can do:
 - You can take the survey at www.tinyurl.com/412family. Please share the link and encourage participation!
 - Check out the results weekly [here](#).
 - Check out the related resource guides [here](#).
 - Let us know what data might help you care for your clients more comprehensively by contacting Kristin.Ray@chp.edu.
 - They're swapping out questions week to week to address pressing concerns.
 - They're creating custom reports for different groups.
 - For example, this week they added some childcare-related questions.

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

- The [Operational Changes Tracker](#) is now live.
- You can reach us by email at DHS-COVID19planning@alleghenycounty.us. We will answer all questions and elevate issues to inform the network.
- Please submit stories and photos of how you are meeting needs during this time to Evelyn.Whitehill@AlleghenyCounty.US

Legislative/Policy Updates

Federal Updates

- 5th Federal stimulus bill: Negotiations still ongoing between Congress and White House on additional state and local stimulus.
 - House expected to release a bill this week, formalizing Democrat's priorities and establishing a marker.

State and local updates

- PA Budget discussions continue under partisan rancor over reopening.
 - General Assembly Republicans threaten to sue Wolf administration to gain access to the business closure waiver process after Wolf ignores subpoena.
 - Gov. Wolf held a forceful press conference today threatening to withhold stimulus funds from counties that defy phased reopening orders, calling lawmakers who encourage businesses to violate orders "cowards."
- City of Pittsburgh police offer free masks at police stations.
 - Free face masks have been placed inside newspaper boxes at the front of all six Pittsburgh Police zone stations as well as two substations.

Food

Food Bank data

- There have been slight decreases in the numbers of calls to the food bank and people showing up to food bank, but increases in community delivery boxes, summer food grab and go meals, and mass distributions.
 - We have serviced 18,943 cars in the mass distributions.
 - We are doing a distribution in Johnstown at the Galleria Mall and with SHIM at South Hills Village mall on Saturday.
 - If you are interested in becoming a community partner to distribute emergency food boxes, email mschilken@pittsburghfoodbank.org.
- As a reminder, P-EBT benefits were approved! P-EBT is a new benefit to help families who have children who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. The benefit will come on an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card, which is like a debit card. The benefits can be spent only on food items.
 - Households will receive \$5.70 per day per child for each missed school day.
 - If families are already enrolled in SNAP, they will automatically receive this benefit on their card.
 - Coalition Against Hunger and Just Harvest published [an FAQ](#).
- As a reminder, Doorstep Delivery launched last week.
 - This is for households that cannot get to a pantry or distribution event. A 25-pound box of shelf stable food is delivered to recipient's door.
 - For info, call the Food Bank at 412-460-3663, extension 655 or visit www.pittsburghfoodbank.org/gethelp.
- As a reminder, Beverly's Birthdays is coordinating with Circles to distribute baby supplies on May 19th from 10 am-1:30 pm. To participate, you must pre-register at <https://babiesintheburgh.eventbrite.com>.
- The Food Access Call is on Tuesdays at 3:30 pm. Call-in information can be found in the slide presentation.

AAA food information

- No new updates since 4-29-2020.

Program Updates

AAA

- No new updates since 5-1-2020.

OCS

- For childcare resources, please share ELRC contact information (elrc5@alleghenycounty.us or 412-350-3577) with your essential employees.
 - Childcare centers are permitted to reopen on Friday. Through the ELRC and Trying Together, we are in close communication with providers. We are also trying to understand the need and demand for childcare.
- We have moved employment information and resources to [our website](#).
- Homeless network
 - The Family Quarantine and Isolation space is open!
 - 2- and 3-bedroom apartments for families from the homeless system or CYF.
 - Contact Remy Harris (Remy.Harris@alleghenycounty.us).
 - Thanks to Action Housing and Auberle for getting this up and running.
 - We have gotten our first delivery of client cell phones.
 - Contact Gabe Krivosh (Gabriel.Krivosh@alleghenycounty.us) for more information.
 - A Shelter/FQHC director call to discuss healthcare access for the homeless population is happening this Friday, Please reach out to Kate Holko (Kathryn.Holko@alleghenycounty.us) if you did not receive an invitation.
 - Provider Network Meeting is held every Tuesday at 9:30 am, Call-in information can be found in the slide presentation

Behavioral Health

- May is Mental Health Awareness month. Here are a few highlighted resources:
- MHA Of Southwestern PA is highlighting *#Tools2Thrive*.
 - Mental Health Screening Tool: mhaswpa.org
 - Downloadable Mental Health Toolkit: www.mhanational.org/mental-health-month
 - Topics to help you build your own set of *#Tools2Thrive*:
 - [Recognizing and owning your feelings](#)
 - [Finding the positive after loss](#)
 - [Connecting with others](#)
 - [Eliminating toxic influences](#)
 - [Creating healthy routines](#)
 - [Supporting others](#)
- Webinar Opportunities

- National Council for Behavioral Health is holding a webinar on Tobacco Cessation through telehealth on May 14th at 12pm. You can [register here](#).
- Early Intervention
 - No new updates since 5-1-2020.

OID/Autism

- [COVID-19 Update with Deputy Secretary Ahrens](#)
- [ODP Announcement 20-055](#) Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 Renewal Guidance
- [ODP Announcement 20-052](#) “HCBS in Counties Designated by the Governor as Yellow Phase” provides service provision guidance.
- As a reminder, here is a resource where self-advocates share critical COVID information:
 - [Episode 1: How to Stay Healthy](#)
 - [Episode 2: What Should I Do If I Think I’m Sick?](#)
 - [Episode 3: What I Should Do If I Get Sick](#)
 - [Episode 4: What To Do If a Caregiver or a Family Member Gets Sick](#)
 - [Episodio 1 - Cómo mantenerse saludable](#)
 - [Episodio 2 - Lo que debo hacer si creo que estoy enfermo:](#)
 - [Episodio 3 - Lo que debo hacer si estoy enfermo](#)
 - [Episodio 4 - Lo que debo hacer si mi familiar o persona que me cuida se enferma](#)
- 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 <https://www.myodp.org/mod/page/view.php?id=26808>.

CYF

- May is National Foster Care Month. If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, visit [the DHS website](#) or call the Director’s Action Line at 1-800-862-6783.
- Our Office of Community Relations is conducting Social Media outreach.
 - Check out and share the [Be a Lifeline video](#).
 - We are also encouraging folks to be a good neighbor and check in on their neighbors.
- Community members in Mt. Lebanon made almost 500 face masks for our children and families and raised almost \$15,000.

Courts/Jail

- No new updates since 5-7-2020.

Transportation

- The State MATP issued revised guidance for [MATP agencies](#) and [MATP Consumers](#), but the changes are not significant.

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