



COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting
May 4, 2020



General Information

As of the time of this meeting (5-4-2020 at 4:30 pm) there are 1,365 confirmed cases and 102 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 will shift the schedule of these calls to twice a week, Mondays and Thursdays only, beginning today, May 4th.

- Dr. Bogen, Director of the Health Department, will join the call this Thursday 5-7-2020. You may submit questions in advance to DHS-COVID19planning@alleghenycounty.us.

Beginning on May 6th, we invite you to submit your ideas about how to help people in Allegheny County at <https://neighborland.com/alleghenycounty/home?preview=c9ad1489989a4c44>.

Recruitment platform for temporary essential health and human service workers

- A [training session](#) for use of platform is scheduled for tomorrow May 5th at 10 am. Call-in information is in the slide presentation. It will be recorded.
- Link for providers: https://bit.ly/SWPA_HHSprovider.
- Link for job seekers: http://bit.ly/SWPA_HHSjobs.

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 for state and local aid package are still in the early stages. No bipartisan agreement yet or clear timeline.

State and local updates

- PA reported a tax revenue loss of \$2.2 billion in April, falling 50% below official budget estimates.
 - Majority of the shortfall is due to the 3-month extension of the deadline for filing personal income taxes, which was pushed to July.
 - But \$400 million is estimated to be lost due to pandemic.
- County Executive is coordinating with Gov. Wolf in an attempt to have Allegheny County moved to "yellow phase" of re-opening as soon as May 15th.
 - Allegheny County has been below the "fewer than 50 new confirmed cases per 100,000 population in the previous 14 days" threshold since mid-April.
 - We are working on guidance for what this means for you and your clients.

Food

The food bank shared [an infographic](#) describing their COVID-19 response.

- One million more pounds of food than usual have been distributed during COVID-19, and a large majority (3 million pounds of 4.1 million pounds total) has been distributed by partner agencies.

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 can reopen during the yellow phase. We are watching the PA counties who are entering the yellow phase first to learn from them.
 - Allegheny County Family Centers are offering online programming, open to all. You can learn more on Facebook [@alleghenycountyfamilysupport](#).
- We have moved employment information and resources to [our website](#).
- Homeless network
 - As a reminder, we have begun partnering with the Health Department and FQHCs to expand health services in shelters.
 - DHS is scheduling a call for shelter directors with heads of FQHCs within the next couple of weeks.
 - The Family Isolation/Quarantine space should open on Thursday 5-7-2020. More information will be shared on Thursday's provider call.
 - Safe Haven Hotel
 - To date, 52 clients have been accepted into the hotel.
 - The primary age group served has been 52-62.
 - Most clients are there because they are high-risk, based on age and chronic health conditions, but we have also served COVID-positive and quarantined folks.
 - They are overwhelmingly being referred from homeless system providers, but we are getting referrals from a diversity of sources.
 - They are mostly going to private housing upon exiting the hotel.
 - As a reminder, referrals are now accepted from homelessness shelters, street outreach providers, healthcare providers, and refugee and immigrant services. Any system 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

- Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) released another round of [COVID-19 Changes](#), including:
 - Expansion of Medicare coverage for audio-only phone services during the coronavirus pandemic, including psychotherapy, health behavior assessment and intervention services, and other behavioral health services.
 - Steps to allow for temporary expansion to help address capacity.
 - Allowing payment for certain partial hospitalization services – e.g., individual psychotherapy, patient education and group psychotherapy – that are delivered in temporary expansion locations, including patients’ homes.
- Drug and Alcohol Unusual Incident Reporting Process
 - Contact the D&A administrator by phone within 24 hours (412-350-4282)
 - Submit an electronic incident report to incidentreports@alleghenycounty.us,
 - Also submit to dhs-covid19planning@alleghenycounty.us.
 - Links:
 - [OBH Contractor Provider Guidelines](#)
 - [Procedure](#)
 - [Unusual Incident Report Form](#)
- DDAP has compiled a list of training opportunities that can be found [here](#).
- Early Intervention
 - No new updates since 5-1-2020.

OID/Autism

- No new updates since 5-1-2020.
- 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

- We are gathering silver linings from our staff to understand how COVID is impacting how they work.
- We are doing qualitative reviews of Family Plans to understand engagement during COVID-19.

Courts/Jail

The Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board will hold a virtual meeting on Thursday, May 7th at 4:00 p.m.

- You may submit comments and questions online to the Jail Oversight Board prior to the meeting by clicking on the [Submit Comments or Questions](#) link by Wednesday, May 6th at noon.
- A link to watch the virtual meeting will be made available on May 6th at 4:00 pm on the Court's website: <https://www.alleghencourts.us/jail/oversight.aspx>.

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