



COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting
October 15, 2020



General Information

DHS Provider Meetings are held on Thursday each week.

Allegheny County is still currently looking for temporary election processing assistants (primarily data processing and clerical work) at \$20/hour for various shifts. If interested, call 412-350-6109.

The following solicitations are active on the [DHS Solicitations Page](#), along with form to sign up to receive email notifications when we post new solicitations.

- RFI for a Racial Equity Training and Support Directory
 - Submissions Due 10/26

As a reminder, the McKeesport Testing Site is open.

- The site is now offering evening and weekend hours!
 - Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays: 10 am-4 pm
 - Wednesdays and Thursdays: 12-7 pm
- Make an appointment for a free test. Registration and testing information available at bit.ly/McKeesportCOVIDTestSite.
- If you are unable to drive, contact the COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-856-2774 for options & resources.

The Allegheny County Free Flu Shot Clinic and Health Screenings Schedule can be found at <http://www.livewellallegheny.com/health-screenings-flu-shot-clinics/>.

Some publications have recently been posted on the [Allegheny County Analytics Website](#). Check them out!

- [Eviction Cases in Allegheny County, 2012–2019](#)
- [Public Defense at Preliminary Arraignments Associated with Reduced Jail Bookings and Decreased Disparities](#)
- [Students' Experiences with the Juvenile and Criminal Justice Systems In and Out of School: A Longitudinal Analysis of Pittsburgh Public School Students, 2010–2018](#)
- [A Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Cross-System Evaluation: Findings and Recommendations](#)
- [Women in the Allegheny County Criminal Justice System](#)

As a reminder, DHS has partnered with United Way to mail 4 cloth masks to every DHS client household.

- This was made possible by CARES funds.
- Each package will have 2 informational cards, translated in Spanish on the reverse side.
- Mailing will begin next week and continue for 4-6 weeks.

As a reminder, we encourage you to [place your order for free supplies](#)! Consider your needs through the remainder of the year.

COVID-19 Metrics

[PA has posted an early warning indicators dashboard](#). The data are updated every Friday.

- There was an increase in all metrics except for positivity rate (which remained steady) during October 3rd-9th.

- Average daily hospitalizations increased by 33% over the last week.
- Patients on ventilators increased by 35% over the last week.

Bactronix Treatment now available

- Bactronix is an electrostatically applied treatment that will both disinfect and prevent the growth of microbial activity (including COVID-19) from surfaces for up to six months.
- Due to time and funding constraints, at this time the treatment is only available to providers at highest risk of a COVID outbreak:
 - Larger congregate care providers
 - Community Learning Hubs
 - Family Centers
 - Senior Centers
- Request the treatment here: [Bactronix Request Form Link](#)

As a reminder, you can request in-home, portable internet access for your clients in need through [DHS Device Request Form](#)

- Hotspots are available now! Distributions are held most Fridays.
- Laptops are also in stock and more are on the way.

COVID-19 Mobile Testing Schedule

Each Monday, the Allegheny County Health Department provides an updated mobile testing schedule on its [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter](#). Testing is ongoing at sites around the County, and individuals can [register here](#); some sites allow for walk-ins.

- You can use the [county testing map](#) when you are working with a client and looking for testing locations with them.

Human Services Building Updates

We want to provide a warm, respectful, safe and secure experience for all who enter the Human Services Building. We will take the following approaches:

1. Redesigning the lobby: to include lockers for clients' possessions and a warm environment
2. Receptionist at the front desk: Clients will be greeted by a warm, friendly smile, rather than a security guard.
3. Dedicated client waiting area: a more private and respectful space, including comfortable furniture and a kitchenette. This area will connect to four new interview rooms.
4. Clear designation of public and private spaces, including physical barriers and the use of photo ID badges to separate where clients and staff should go.
5. Prohibited items and weapons detection: set parameters around what we allow to enter our offices.

Please refer to the slide presentations for visual renderings of the new lobby design.

We continue 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

State and Local Updates

- Next week, the PA General Assembly is expected to move these bills:
 - Senate consideration of COVID-19 funding-related bills, including a bill creating the \$200m Nonprofit Economic Emergency Delivery Systems (NEEDS) Grants Program.
 - House bill with bipartisan support that increases the cap on emergency rental assistance for PHFA's COVID Relief-Mortgage and Rental Assistance Grant Program (HB 2868).

Food

Upcoming food distributions:

1. McKeesport, 10/17, 10 am, 1960 Eden Park Blvd - [Register here](#)
2. Clairton, 10/17, 11 am, Clairton High School
3. Millvale, 10/22, 2 pm, Millvale Community Center
4. Wilkinsburg, 10/24, 11 am, 333 Lincoln Highway [Register here](#)
5. Hill District, 10/24, 9 am, Shop N Save
6. Duquesne, 10/26, 12 pm, 1 N Linden St [Register here](#)
7. Paragon Food Distributions are occurring every weekday from 10 am-2 pm through October at:
 - a. Monday: Pittsburgh Perry
 - b. Tuesday: Pittsburgh Faison
 - c. Wednesday: Pittsburgh Gifted Center
 - d. Thursday: Pittsburgh Millions
 - e. Friday: Pittsburgh Carmalt

Program Updates

Office of Developmental Supports

- COVID Cases
 - Out of 356 COVID tests, there were 101 positive cases and 6 deaths.
 - A majority of testing was conducted on clients/staff at the community based residential providers, especially early in the pandemic.
- Staffing was an issue before the pandemic, and the pandemic posted additional challenges including positive staff cases and recruitment challenges.
- Our community participation services were greatly impacted. We have seen remote services and creative forms of engagement take off.
- New residential admissions did not stop as a result of the pandemic. Providers were still willing to work with us to meet individuals' needs.
- Providers worked together to access CARES funds.
- The state has tried to be as flexible as possible

AAA

- We are back to usual call levels at the Senior Line. Initial spike in calls were about food and resources, and now we are seeing more typical calls about in-home services.
- We have seen a 16% increase in daily home delivered meals, and a 26% increase in monthly volume. At this time, we are using frozen meals and are unable to perform the wellness checks.

- The vast majority of Senior Centers remain closed due to safety concerns. We continue to serve grab-and-go meals. The center closures present financial concerns for the centers' continued operations.
- In-Home services have not seen much change, due to the dedication of staff and providers.
- Protective services call volumes remain high and we remain available to conduct investigations.
- Community Care Transitions services are occurring virtually to ensure individuals get what they need when they are discharged from the hospital.
- Ombudsman is operating via telephonic interactions. We are attempting to purchase senior-assisted robots that can chat with seniors.
- Monitoring is occurring virtually.
- Options Care Management is occurring virtually and new referrals have declined.
- Senior companion program is operating virtually. The volunteers and individuals miss the in-person contact but remain dedicated.
- Domiciliary Care is operating virtually. We anticipate long term needs for PPE to return to in-person visits.

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. For basic needs assistance or general COVID-19 inquiries call the 24/7 COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-856-2774. Language services are available.
- See the slide presentation for other key contacts.

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