



COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting

October 22, 2020



General Information

As a reminder, DHS Provider Meetings are held every Thursday.

Thank you to Pat Valentine, DHS Executive Deputy Director for Integrated Program Services, for your lifetime of dedication to human services. During her time with DHS, Pat won many awards for her public service. We wish Pat a happy retirement.

- In turn, Pat thanked the provider community for their collaboration, caring and tremendous work. Pat reflected on the challenges and changes she has seen during her career and advised those on the call to remain compassionate and VOTE!

The following solicitations are active on the DHS Solicitations Page:

- RFI for a Racial Equity Training and Support Directory
 - Submissions Due 10/26
- All available on [DHS Solicitations Page](#), along with form to sign up to receive email notifications when we post new solicitations

Michael Yonas, Director of Research and Special Initiatives at The Pittsburgh Foundation, joined the call to talk about the Foundation's Coronavirus Relief Fund in partnership with DHS.

- The fund's purpose is to disseminate CARES Act funding to disproportionately impacted communities in our region.
- Funds supported direct costs associated with the following activities in support of Black, Brown, Latinx, immigrant, and LGBTQIA people and communities: basic needs, food delivery, PPE and testing, health and safety messaging, working to reduce the disproportionate impact of the virus and its aftermath, and reducing social isolation.
 - The costs had to meet the eligibility requirements of CARES Act.
- A total of \$1.62 million was awarded in 28 grants:
 - 14 organizations with annual operating budgets under \$1,000,000 and 11 with budgets under \$500,000
 - Average grant size - \$57,888 (range \$1,200 to \$100,000)
- TPF is partnering with [YourCFO](#), which provides customized financial management solutions for small businesses and non-profits in the Greater Pittsburgh Area, to help us with CARES Act expense documentation.
- You can reach out to yonasm@pghfdn.org with questions about the fund.

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 PCR positivity rate (which is steady) and ER visits due to COVID during the week of October 9th-15th.
 - New cases and incidence rates per 100,000 increased slightly during this period (by 4% each).
 - Cases have increased since early/mid-September and are comparable to levels at the end of July.
 - The positivity rate remains below 10% and has been steady since early September.
 - Hospitalizations continue to rise, with a 22% increase over the last week.
 - Hospitalizations had been decreasing during this most recent period, to a low of 36 on September 20th. Since then, hospitalizations have increased by almost 200%.

- The Health department is recommending testing widely, isolating those who are sick, finding contacts who may have been exposed and getting them tested, and quarantining close contacts.

As a reminder, the McKeesport Testing Site is open.

- The site is now offering evening and weekend hours!
 - Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays: 10am-4pm
 - Wednesdays and Thursdays: 12-7pm
- Make an appointment for a free test. You do not need insurance. 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 additional options & resources.

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.

Consider downloading the COVID Alert PA app. It can alert you if you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive.

PA Dept of Health is seeking information to assess ultra-cold storage (-60°C to -80°C) capabilities for planning purposes if a COVID-19 vaccine would require cold storage.

- If your facility has ultra-cold storage, please complete the [PA DOH Survey](#) by Monday, October 26th at 5:00 pm.

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

The state has created its own state-based health insurance marketplace, Pennie, to get people enrolled in the health insurance marketplace (replaces healthcare.gov).

- The [Pennie website](#) will allow users to compare insurance plans and enroll when the inaugural open enrollment period begins November 1st-January 15th.
- Please help us get the word out to individuals and families who are:
 - covered by individual health plans through healthcare.gov and will now access coverage through Pennie
 - without access to employer-sponsored coverage
 - uninsured

As a reminder, we encourage you to [place your order for free supplies](#)! Consider your needs through the remainder of the year. We have Emergency facemasks, Full-face shields, Non-Contact Infrared Thermometers (Limit 2 per order), Hand Sanitizer (8oz and 64oz options) and Clorox Clean-Up Disinfectant.

As a reminder, Bactronix Treatment is 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 the [DHS Device Request Form](#).

- Laptops and hotspots are available now! Distributions are held most Fridays.
- Laptops now come with over-the-ear headsets! If you've already received a laptop but need a headset, email us at DHS-Covid19Supplies@alleghenycounty.us.

We are continuing to track how schools are delivering instruction at this time. You can visit your school district's website or [Allies for Children](#) for the latest updates.

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

State and Local Updates

- The General Assembly is still figuring out how to allocate the remaining \$1.3b in federal CARES Act funds before year's end. Decisions will be part of remaining budget negotiations due by the end of November, where a \$4.5B shortfall must be accounted for.
- The state legislature did not move bills as expected which would:
 - create the \$200m Nonprofit Economic Emergency Delivery Systems (NEEDS) Grants Program using federal CARES Act funds, consideration is now expected after the election
 - increase the cap on emergency rental assistance for PHFA's COVID Relief-Mortgage and Rental Assistance Grant Program (HB 2868), citing the Governor's executive action earlier in the week
- The Allegheny County Elections Office is expanding hours for its office and the downstairs lobby for voters to apply for and receive their mail-in or absentee ballot, or to return their completed ballot ([link](#) for hours and information on additional election offices).
- Both Pittsburgh City Council and Allegheny County Council passed bills to ban hair discrimination in employment, education, housing and other settings.
- County Council approved Juneteenth as an annual County holiday.

Food

There are upcoming food distributions:

1. Wilksburg, 10/24, 11 am, 333 Lincoln Highway [Register here](#)
2. Hill District, 10/24, 9 am, Shop N Save
3. Duquesne, 10/26, 12 pm, 1 N Linden St [Register here](#)
4. 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

CYF

Youth Discharge Satisfaction Survey

- DHS's Provider Relations Team's purpose is to improve the placement experience of youth in CYF care. The team's goals are:
 - To inform and improve service delivery and practice changes to best meet the needs of children in care.
 - To collect data via surveys or interviews on youth's experiences leaving Congregate Care and Teen Foster Care.
- The team created a Youth Discharge Satisfaction Survey.
 - The survey is completed within 2-4 weeks after discharge
 - The survey can be distributed by:
 - YSP (not all youth may have one)
 - YVS (Youth Voice Specialist) now under DHS
 - Current Provider upon arrival
 - Previous Provider upon discharge
 - Contract Monitors
 - We will share the data via handouts to have providers give to youth, and we will create a discharge dashboard
- We encourage you to check out this [15208 Homewood and Wilksburg Community Resource guide](#).

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**