



**COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting**  
**March 26, 2020**



## General Information

As of the time of this meeting (3-26-2020 at 4:30) there are 133 confirmed cases and 2 deaths in the County.

- This spike may be attributable to expanded testing.
- Gender and age distributions of cases are available on the [Health Department website](#).

We are continuing to improve our website, now located at [www.bit.ly/COVID19DHSProviders](http://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.
- You can reach us by email at [DHS-COVID19planning@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:DHS-COVID19planning@alleghenycounty.us).

## Supply Requests

- Allegheny County Emergency Services (ACES) will be managing all requests for hard-to-find items that cannot be obtained through normal means due to global supply chain challenges.
  - Items include: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as sterile or nitrile gloves, N95 masks, gowns and hair covers, and cleaning supplies such as Clorox wipes and hand sanitizer.
  - How to request hard-to-find supplies:
    - If your agency is affiliated with a larger healthcare agency such as Mercy Behavioral Health, UPMC or Allegheny Health Network, your needs should be submitted through your parent agency via HAP, the Hospital & HealthSystem Association of Pennsylvania. Please reach out to your agency contact to submit supply requests.
    - All other providers, please complete the Allegheny County Emergency Services (ACES) Resource Request Form ([found here](#)) and email it to [EMA@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:EMA@alleghenycounty.us). Hard-to-find supplies are being centrally coordinated through ACES and are being distributed as soon as they are available.
- For all other items, email [DHS-COVID19Planning@AlleghenyCounty.us](mailto:DHS-COVID19Planning@AlleghenyCounty.us) and we will do our best to help you meet your needs.
- Please only request what you really need and limit requests to supplies needed for the next two weeks.

## Legislative/Policy Updates

The "Phase 3" Stimulus legislation is still pending. The Senate has passed it and the House is planning a vote on Friday 3/27.

- Detail and proposed funding amounts can be found in the slides.
- We will continue to provide updates on this legislation and how you will receive this funding.

Some sobering local statistics:

- 10% of the PA workforce has applied for unemployment compensation.
- The Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) of Pittsburgh has received more than 400 applications for its low-income family grant program of \$3,000 and only has funds for 100 families. The URA is currently seeking additional funding to address this increased need.
- The City of Pittsburgh is anticipating budget deficits for the year due to revenue delays and the effect of the economic downturn on business taxes.
- See the slide presentation for details about how the state is attempting to address these issues.

## **Food**

We continue to encourage you to use the [Food distribution map as the](#) most updated source of information.

- We are getting a lot of web traffic on the map, and other sites have been linking to it.
- The map is located in the food section of the website.
- The map allows you to make corrections and submit additional food sites.

A Food Access Call was held today (3/26) and we will continue to meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

- Transportation and getting food to individuals and families are the primary topics.
  - Some of this need can be addressed by bus and with 412 Food Rescue's home delivery pilot.

Please complete the [Food Access Survey](#) ASAP, if you have not already.

- We will share the results with the United Way, all of you and other partners soon.

## **AAA food information**

- Requests for food for seniors are increasing, but we are still within our capacity to deliver these meals.
- We are getting 30-33 new requests per day.
- We were able to put in an order for 1,000 shelf stable meals from Defense Logistics.
- We are exploring ways to locate more "everyday" supplies like toilet paper and will keep you updated.

## **Program Updates**

### **AAA**

- Our workers are experiencing transportation challenges with home visits due to cuts in Port Authority routes.
  - We will have an update at tomorrow's (3/27/2020) meeting.

### **OCS**

- For childcare resources, please share ELRC contact information ([elrc5@allegHENYcounty.us](mailto:elrc5@allegHENYcounty.us) or 412-350-3577) with your essential employees.
- We have moved employment information and resources to [our website](#).
- Homeless network

- Today, a Public Source article claimed we had contracted with an airport hotel to address housing needs. This article was NOT correct and there are currently no plans to use this space.
- We continue to work on isolation and quarantine space.
  - Facility 1 (single room occupancy for homeless individuals currently in shelter or on the streets) will be open within the next week.
  - We are close to opening facilities 2 and 3.
  - Pictures of the facilities are included in today's slide presentation.
- **Next week only** the provider call will be on a different day/time, Wednesday April 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30am. See slide for call-in information.

### Behavioral Health

- We are monitoring supplies and staffing, but so far, there has been no adverse impact on ability to deliver services.
- We are maintaining our crisis services across the community.
  - ReResolve Crisis Center has a backup plan in place should staffing becomes a challenge.
- Upcoming Meetings:
  - BH provider meetings will take place weekly on Thursdays starting next Thursday, 4/2/2020, from 10-11am.
  - A Social Rehabilitation provider meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, 3/27/2020, at 1:00pm.
- OMHSAS has issued an FAQ document which can be found [here](#).
- PA DHS has issued FAQs that can be found [here](#).
- Funding opportunities:
  - Earlier today (3/26/2020) we were notified of a [Staunton Farm opportunity](#) to apply for an emergency grant.
  - Check with your existing funders, as we are hearing that many are open to flexibility and re-purposing of existing grants.
- Drug and Alcohol
  - DDAP is suspending certain regulations.
    - See [Licensing Alert 02-20](#) and [Licensing Alert 03-20](#) for more details.
  - DDAP also issued a list of available resources for individuals [here](#).
  - There is an adequate supply of Narcan and kits are available for distribution.
    - We are working on backup plans to ensure continued access.
- Early intervention
  - No change since 3/25.

### OID/Autism

- We continue to follow local information and directives, along with information from the PA Department of Health and the State Office of Developmental Programs.
  - ODP Announcement 20-029 is relevant to providers of residential services.
    - The state is adding more Without Day days for you to bill against, which will allow you to bill and get paid in a timely fashion.

- ODP Announcement 20-031 concerns retainer payments.
  - If you provide community participation services, the state will still reimburse you at 75% of your monthly total average of claims.
- ODP COVID-19 updates, including links to these announcements, are available at <https://www.myodp.org/mod/page/view.php?id=26808>.

## **CYF**

- Funding and staffing remain stable; service locations and supplies continue to be unstable.
- We are sending daily updates to staff and providers.
  - These updates include factual communication as well as inspirational and mindfulness content.

## **Courts/Jail**

- A reminder that we continue to operate under the [March 23 order detailing emergency operations](#).
- [Safety & Justice Challenge](#) folks are continuing to identify people for release.
  - Allegheny County is also working to make sure that those who are released have a place to go.
- Matt Dugan, director of Allegheny County Office of the Public Defender (OPD), joined the call and shared the following information:
  - Arrests have decreased but are still occurring.
  - Arraignments will be staffed full time (around the clock), beginning 3/3/2020, to keep people out of the jail.
    - The judge and attorneys will conduct these arraignment remotely, via teleconference.
  - OPD continues to work with DHS to identify at-risk incarcerated clients, communicate with court partners and maintain a safe work environment for OPD staff.
  - More than 300 motions have been filed since 3/18/2020 (this is really fast).
  - More than 470 inmates have been released since 3/18/2020.
- The Allegheny County Jail has been implementing social distancing.
  - All visits have been canceled, but attorneys are able to confer with their clients by telephone.
  - Regular updates are available at the [jail operations page](#).
- The Jail is conducting health screenings, including temperature checks, and using isolation when necessary.

## **Transportation**

- We are working with the state to coordinate care management transportation.

## **How to Reach Us**

- Email us at [DHS-COVID19planning@alleghenycounty.us](mailto: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).
- See the slide presentation for other key contacts.

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