



# **COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting**

## **April 20, 2020**



## General Information

As of the time of this meeting (4-20-2020 at 4:30 pm) there are 1,042 confirmed cases and 55 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 are working on State and County budget implications, program-specific guidance documents, a debrief of Community Listening Sessions and technology resources for clients. We hope to share those with you within the next few weeks.

### New Supply Request Procedure

As a reminder, DHS is now partnering with Global Links for supply requests. Keep in mind that the global supply chain is disrupted for all PPE, so quantities are limited.

- To submit a request for PPE and/or General Supplies, use Global Links' [online ordering form](#).
  - Please limit requests to no more than what is needed during a two-week period.
  - The form is six pages in total. The form requests specific information about how the PPE will be used, such as # of clinical staff, # of clients seen daily, # of clients living in your facility and plans for appropriate use of PPE. It also includes a waiver of liability.
  - After submission, Global Links will contact you to confirm availability of the inventory within 1-2 days.
    - DHS will help prioritize supply requests and will step in if supplies are needed that Global Links cannot source.
  - After confirmation, delivery will occur 3-5 days after the request is approved.
- Current Supply Offerings:
  - Disposable facemasks (NOT N95 respirator masks)
  - Emergency facemasks (reusable, not intended for clinical use)
  - Full-face shields
  - Gloves
  - Incontinence supplies
  - We also hope to provide diapers in partnership with the PA Diaper Bank. If you are already a member of the Diaper Bank, continue to get your diapers there.
  - The form is updated regularly based on current availability of supplies.

PA Department of Community and Economic Development has released a [directory of PPE suppliers](#).

- DHS has not vetted this directory and does not endorse any specific organization.
- Watch out for signs of a scam: Avoid pre-payment and check where the materials are currently located (make sure they are in the United States).

We are continuing to improve our website, located at [www.bit.ly/COVID19DHSProviders](http://www.bit.ly/COVID19DHSProviders).

- The [Operational Changes Tracker](#) is now live.
- We have reorganized the site, moving all program-specific information to a menu bar on the top of the site.
- You can reach us by email at [DHS-COVID19planning@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:DHS-COVID19planning@alleghenycounty.us). We will answer all questions and elevate issues to inform the network.

## Legislative/Policy Updates

### Federal updates

- Congress is nearing an agreement on a \$450 billion 4th Stimulus package.
  - Possible numbers include: \$300 billion to replenish the Paycheck Protection Program; \$50 billion for the SBA's disaster relief fund; \$75 billion for hospitals and \$25 billion for testing.
  - No relief included in this round for state and local governments.
  - The Senate is planning to vote tomorrow (Tuesday, 4/21/2020) and the House on Wednesday, 4/22/2020..

## Food

The Food Access Provider call is on Tuesdays at 3:30 pm. See slide presentation for call-in information. Here are ways to support individuals and families gain food access:

- Encourage families/individuals to apply for public assistance.
  - The [Food Bank](#) and [Just Harvest](#) both offer application assistance.
  - Applications can be submitted online or by email. Please print out some applications to have on-hand.
  - Multi-language applications: applications in several languages can be found for printing at <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/Apply-for-Benefits.aspx>.
- Help families/individuals finding local sources of food:
  - Local pantries and other local emergency food options are the best options—they have fewer crowds than the large-scale Food Bank distribution.
    - Use [this map](#) or "Get Help" on the [Food Bank website](#) to identify pantries near their home.
    - Flexibilities have been put in place to allow providers to pick up for households. Call the pantry in advance for documentation requirements.
  - Grab and Go sites are available for families with children.
    - Use [this map](#) or "Grab and Go" on the [Food Bank website](#) to identify the closest Grab and Go location.
    - Flexibilities may be in place to allow providers to pick up for households. Call the site in advance for documentation requirements.
  - Large-scale food bank distributions are only recommended for households that do not have access to a local food pantry.
  - Recommend Home Delivery only to households that are unable to get to a distribution site and whose local pantry is not offering home delivery. Call 2-1-1.

### AAA food information

- No new updates since 4-15-2020.

## Program Updates

### AAA

- No new updates since 4/17/2020.

### OCS

- For childcare resources, please share ELRC contact information ([elrc5@allegHENYcounty.us](mailto:elrc5@allegHENYcounty.us) or 412-350-3577) with your essential employees.
  - As a reminder, Boys & Girls club is opening a day camp for school age children of essential personnel. You can apply at <https://www.bgcwpa.org/covid-19-essential-personnel>.
- We have moved employment information and resources to [our website](#).
- Homeless network
  - The Medical Needs Survey was emailed to providers today, please complete it by COB Wednesday.
  - As a reminder, the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania has funds available for homeless assistance programs to expand their ability to create social distancing for clients.
    - Applications are due by 5:00 pm, tomorrow, 4/21/2020.
    - Link for applications: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3LTG3B3>.
  - As a reminder, a mattress manufacturer in PA wants to donate up to 1,000 new twin mattresses.
    - The State can arrange delivery from Harrisburg, if necessary.
    - Contact Josh Kauffman ([jokauffman@pa.gov](mailto:jokauffman@pa.gov)) if you are interested.
  - Safe Haven Hotel
    - Referrals are now accepted from homelessness shelters, street outreach providers, and refugee and immigrant services. If you are part of any system with an individual in urgent need of safe haven, reach out to your DHS contact.
      - Homeless client referral contact: Jessica McKown  
[Jessica.Mckown@allegHENYcounty.us](mailto:Jessica.Mckown@allegHENYcounty.us)
      - Jail referral contact: Jenn Batterton  
[Jennifer.Batterton@AlleghenyCounty.US](mailto:Jennifer.Batterton@AlleghenyCounty.US)
      - OBH referral contact: Diane Johnson  
[Diane.Johnson@AlleghenyCounty.US](mailto:Diane.Johnson@AlleghenyCounty.US)
    - CHS still needs staff, please refer people to [apply here](#).
  - The Provider Network Meeting is held every Tuesday at 9:30 am; call-in information is in slide presentation.

### Behavioral Health

- No new updates since 4-17-2020.

### OID/Autism

- [ODP Announcement 20-047](#), “Facilitating Personal Relationships When Visitors are Restricted in Residential Settings,” addresses visitation policies.
- 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

- Fingerprinting
  - As a reminder, on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 9-5, DHS will host a mobile fingerprinting site at 1 Smithfield Street in the Liberty Conference Room. Free parking is available.
    - To enroll, go to [www.identogo.com](http://www.identogo.com) and follow the directions in the slide presentation.
  - Other Locations
    - ASCI is still offering fingerprinting from 9 am-12 pm at their Penn Hills location.
    - Identogo is also offering fingerprinting at its East Pittsburgh (9 am – 1:30 pm) and Monroeville (9 am – 7 pm) locations.
- KidsVoice is offering a free legal question and answer sessions every Monday-Friday at 2:30 pm.
  - Contact any Youth Zone staff member or KidsVoice at 412-391-3100 for call-in information.
- The Poison Control Center is seeing a 146% increase in calls.
  - Anyone with questions about substance exposure or toxicity is encouraged to call the Pittsburgh Poison Center at 800-222-1222.
  - Remember to remind families to utilize lock boxes or safe storage.
- Call for Respite Care Providers
  - We need safe, temporary spaces for children whose caregivers are unable to care for them due to coronavirus symptoms or hospitalization.
  - We are partnering with A Second Chance Inc. (ASCI) to provide virtual training and payment to those families who volunteer.
    - You are welcome to apply to be a respite provider. For more information or to apply, email [ASCICovidCombat@asecondchance-kinship.com](mailto:ASCICovidCombat@asecondchance-kinship.com) or call Davida Allen at 412-377-2511 or Tara Skibiell at 412-715-9242.

#### Courts/Jail

- No new updates since 4-8-2020.

#### Transportation

- No new updates since 4-9-2020.

#### **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).
- The COVID Hotline is 2-1-1 and the Health Department's line is 687-2243.
- See the slide presentation for other key contacts.

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