



COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting
April 22, 2020



General Information

As of the time of this meeting (4-22-2020 at 4:30 pm) there are 1,059 confirmed cases and 67 deaths in the County.

- The slow doubling rate of cases shows that social distancing measures may be successful.
- The Health Department's [dashboard](#) provides additional information.
- The Hospital Association of Pennsylvania's [dashboard](#) shows information such as bed utilization.

DHS Budget Update

- Funding Implications
 - DHS get over 60% of our funding from the State. We expect State shortfalls (a deficit of more than \$5B) to impact human services funding.
 - County revenues (5.3% of our funding) are also being impacted.
 - Contact your legislators about how important our work is, now more than ever.
- DHS's Plan
 - Our internal contract process is currently underway. We send out our contracts in July before we know the final allocations to avoid disruptions in funding; those allocations must be considered tentative. We may have to make adjustments once we know State funding levels.

The new Supply Request Procedure is going well.

- 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 for a two-week period.
 - Please submit only one request per agency.
 - Since 4-20-2020, 79 requests have been submitted and about 20 have been fulfilled.

As a reminder, the 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.

- 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. We will answer all questions and elevate issues to inform the network.

Legislative/Policy Updates

Federal updates

- Congress reached agreement on a \$484 billion Fourth Stimulus ("COVID 3.5")
 - Yesterday, the Senate passed the bill; the House is expected to vote tomorrow and pass.
 - Legislation includes: \$320b to replenish the Paycheck Protection Program; \$50b for the SBA's disaster relief fund; \$10b for Emergency Economic Disaster grants; \$75b for

hospitals and health care providers; and \$25b for testing, including \$11b to localities to scale-up capacity.

- Mandates states and localities to report how resources will be used for testing and COVID-19 community mitigation policies.
- We will be following this and trying to utilize as much as we can.

State and local updates

- Allegheny County Council is considering a Paid Sick Leave bill similar to the City of Pittsburgh's ordinance that went into effect last month.
 - Workplaces employing 15 or more workers would be required to provide one hour of paid sick time for every 35 hours worked, up to 40 hours of paid sick time/year.
 - Workplaces with fewer than 15 employees would have sick leave capped at 24 hours/year; would be required to have the same accrual rate as larger employers.

Food

Our Food Access providers are doing amazing work to ensure that families and individuals have access to food.

Yesterday, the [USDA shared some information](#) about a Food Box Distribution program. We are keeping a close eye on this and will share additional details as we receive them.

The Food Access Provider call is on Tuesdays at 3:30. See slide presentation for call-in information.

AAA food information

- Before the outbreak, we received about 5 Home Delivered Meals referrals per day, and during the outbreak this rose to 20-30 per day. In the last week, this has plateaued to 8-15 referrals per day.

Program Updates

AAA

- Total SeniorLine call volumes are returning to pre-outbreak levels.

OCS

- For childcare resources, please share ELRC contact information (elrc5@alleghenycounty.us or 412-350-3577) with your essential employees.
 - As a reminder, Boys & Girls club has opened a day camp for school age children of essential personnel. Apply at <https://www.bgcwpa.org/covid-19-essential-personnel>.
- We have moved employment information and resources to [our website](#).
- Homeless network
 - Please complete the Medical Needs Survey by the end of the day today, 4-22-2020.
 - There will be no Rapid Rehousing RFP this year.

- DHS will soon be able to provide cell phones for clients who are isolated or quarantined. Contact Gabe (gabriel.krivosch@alleghenycounty.us) for more information.
- Safe Haven Hotel
 - Referrals are now accepted from homelessness shelters, street outreach providers, and refugee and immigrant services. Any system with an individual in urgent need of safe haven is encouraged to 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
 - CHS still needs staff; please encourage people to [apply here](#). Organizations interested in loaning staff should contact Cynthia Shields directly at (Cynthia.Shields@alleghenycounty.us).
- The Provider Network Meeting is held every Tuesday at 9:30 am; find call-in information in the slide presentation.

Behavioral Health

- Drug and Alcohol
 - The Central East Prevention Technology Center is offering two free Ethics in Prevention trainings. Space is limited. You can register and find details [here](#).
 - Responses to alcohol withdrawal concerns:
 - WESA ran a [story on alcohol withdrawal in PA](#). Highlights include:
 - Binge drinking increases during periods of unemployment.
 - Allegheny Health Network has seen an increase in patients seeking treatment for alcohol withdrawal. We do not yet have access to the DHS claims data, but we will share with you once we do.
 - We anticipate an increased need for detox and other treatments.
 - PA DHS has published a [resource page](#) and a new hotline, *Get Help Now*. Please encourage people to call the hotline at 1-800-662-HELP.
 - Local Resources
 - The Allegheny County Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services – 412-350-3328 M-F 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
 - Contact HSAO at 412-862-0627 for drug and alcohol case management and support for non-treatment needs.
 - See the slide presentation for a listing of local detox providers.
- Early Intervention
 - New clarification will allow providers to break up the length of their treatment sessions.
 - Please coordinate this through your assigned Service Coordinator.

OID/Autism

- No new updates since 4-20-2020.

- 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

- During this crisis, CYF staff have achieved the following successes:
 - Since February, engagement with families to create a Family Plan increased 25%.
 - 6% reduction in caseload size from March to April, due to finishing assessments and paperwork to achieve safe case closures
 - 35% increase in on-time contact with children since February, in part due to more timely documentation
 - 57% reduction in the number of children, age 5 and under, not seen on time
 - Maintained excellence in timely completion of investigations
 - Since 3-16-2020, completed 6,848 contacts
 - 1506 were completed by video conference; most are still occurring face-to-face.
- Resources
 - [Resources for Kids](#)
 - [Resources for Parents of Kids with Special Needs](#)
 - [Caring for Your Mental Health](#)
 - [Helping Children Affected by Trauma Cope](#)
 - Pressley Ridge's Patti McCloud shares what [life looks like for her autism family these days](#).
- Call for Respite Care providers
 - As a reminder, we need safe, temporary spaces for any child whose caregivers are unable to care for them due to coronavirus symptoms or hospitalization.
 - We are partnering with A Second Chance Inc. to provide virtual training and payment to those families who volunteer to do this.
 - You are welcome to apply to be a respite provider. For more information or to apply, email ASCICovidCombat@asecondchance-kinship.com or call Davida Allen at 412-377-2511 or Tara Skibiel 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 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