



COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting

April 27, 2020



General Information

As of the time of this meeting (4-27-2020 at 4:30 pm) there are 1,224 confirmed cases and 79 deaths in the County.

- The [new CMU maps](#), using information from FB and Google, are getting a lot of attention.
- The Health Department's [dashboard](#) provides additional information.
- The Hospital Association of Pennsylvania's [dashboard](#) shows information such as bed utilization.

Supporting Youth

- The Youth Support Partner (YSP) Unit wants to make sure our youth continue to feel engaged, supported and connected during this time.
 - They are engaging with youth through digital platforms, online gaming and streaming.
 - They are focusing on educating youth about physical fitness from home, budgeting and financial planning, learning new hobbies and life skills, virtual sightseeing, COVID-19 and PPE.
- 412 Youth Zone is also virtually assisting clients with:
 - Accessing food and hygiene products, connecting to housing supports, ensuring safety
 - Mental and physical health through telehealth, phone and text
 - Virtual programming including Virtual Book Club, News You Can Use, check-ins, STEAM projects, Music Mix, New Foods Friday and Art with Rachel. We are still able to offer a stipend for participating.

Laptop Requests for DHS Clients

As a reminder, DHS is providing laptops for clients who need them to access visits with caseworkers, visits with family, tele-health, tele-therapy or school/learning. To request a laptop for a client:

1. Requestor fills out this form: <https://bit.ly/DHSCOVID19Form>.
2. DHS validates client information and need.
3. DHS contacts requestor to arrange for pick-up at HSB or to make other arrangements.

There are supply issues, but we are working with partners to provide as many as possible.

We are also thinking about ways to expand internet access.

We are hoping to launch the recruitment platform for temporary essential human service workers as early as Wednesday, 4-29-2020.

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

State and local updates

- PA State legislature is in the early stages of budget planning for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

- Discussing passage of a short-term budget by the end of May to run through October 31st – this is reliant upon a line of credit to make up any tax revenue shortfalls.
- If state revenue looks more normal by the end of October, the idea is to pass a "normal" budget for the remainder of the fiscal year, 11-1-2020 through 6-30-2021.
- PA has received \$2.5 billion from the Coronavirus Relief Fund established by the CARES Act for pandemic-related expenses.
 - Allegheny County is engaged in the process to receive an separate allocation from the Fund that is set aside for counties with populations over 500k.
- Allegheny County elections – apply online or by mail to receive a mail-in ballot.

Food

[USDA shared some information](#) about a Food Box Distribution Program with the goal of getting fresh food to non-profits that can receive, store and distribute food. We are still keeping a close eye on this and will share additional details as we receive them. There was an RFP released, but it was for food suppliers, not non-profits.

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

AAA food information

- No new updates since 4-22-2020.

Program Updates

AAA

- No new updates since 4-24-2020.

OCS

- For childcare resources, please share ELRC contact information (elrc5@alleghenycounty.us or 412-350-3577) with your essential employees.
 - Boys & Girls club today opened a day camp for school age children of essential personnel. You can apply at <https://www.bgcwpa.org/covid-19-essential-personnel>
 - There is still space available.
- We have moved employment information and resources to [our website](#).
- Homeless network
 - Safe Haven Hotel
 - About 50 individuals are currently housed. Some people are beginning to return home.
 - Referral process update
 - We are enhancing medical screening by phone to make sure that patients are being put on the correct floor of the hotel.
 - Once accepted, individuals will also receive a quick phone call to discuss expectations and guidelines prior to moving to the hotel.

- As a reminder, 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, should 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
 - Immigrants and Internationals referral contact: Brenda Green
bgreen@jfcspgh.org
 - CHS still needs staff, please refer people to [apply here](#). Organizations interested in loaning staff, should contact Cynthia Shields directly at Cynthia.Shields@alleghenycounty.us.
 - Provider Network Meeting is held every Tuesday at 9:30 am. Call-in information is in the slide presentation.
 - This week's call will focus on residential frontline staff and address safety protocols.

Behavioral Health

- Webinar Opportunities
 - SAMHSA's updated TTA resources to assist with the current situation can be found [here](#).
 - [Psychological First Aid During COVID-19](#)
 - April 29 – May 3 to 4:30 pm
 - [Tips for talking with your teen and how SAP can be a resource webinar](#)
 - April 30 – 10 am
 - [Trauma-Informed, Resilience-Oriented Leadership During a Pandemic](#)
 - May 11 – 6 to 7 pm
 - [Responding to COVID-19 – Telehealth](#)
 - Various dates and times
 - DDAP is offering a series of Gambling Webinars; registration information can be found [here](#).
- Financial Information
 - [CARES ACT provider relief fund](#)
 - Supports healthcare related expenses or lost revenue related to COVID-19
 - [Small Business Owners Guide to the CARES Act](#)
 - [Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services expanded Accelerated and Advanced Payment Program](#)
 - Broader group of Medicare Part A and Part B suppliers
 - Federal Communications Commission [COVID-19 Telehealth Program](#)
- Early Intervention

- OCDEL is holding webinars on Wednesday and Thursday of this week for EI providers on the use of telehealth in early intervention services. See slide presentation for call-in information.
 - [Option 1](#): Wednesday April 29, 9:00-10:00 am
 - [Option 2](#): Thursday April 30, 2:00-3:00 pm
- We are advocating for retroactive back billing for our providers and will let you know when we learn more about this.

OID/Autism

- No new updates since 4-24-2020.
- 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 at <https://www.myodp.org/mod/page/view.php?id=26808>.

CYF

- Learn and Earn is a great opportunity to make sure youth are connected and have the opportunity to learn and earn money this summer. [Apply here](#).
- As a reminder, PAAR's drop-in center is closed but remote case management is still operating, including for Project Traffic Stop.
 - PAAR's regular services to all victims are still available.
 - PAAR is also offering virtual trainings, workshops and psychoeducational groups.
 - We encourage survivors interested in beginning services to call the helpline at [1-866-363-7273](tel:1-866-363-7273).

Courts/Jail

- You can help clients find rescheduled court dates using [this link](#).
- A complete how-to guide has been posted [on our website](#).

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