



**COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting**  
**April 6, 2020**



## General Information

As of the time of this meeting (4-6-2020 at 4:30 pm) there are 642 confirmed cases and 4 deaths in the County.

- Gender, age and geographic distributions of cases are available on the [Health Department website](#).

On Friday 4/3/2020, Governor Wolf called for all Pennsylvanians to wear a mask when leaving home. [Click here](#) to learn more about universal masking, along with tips on making a homemade mask.

Please continue to order masks (all types) through Allegheny County Emergency Services (ACES).

- For agencies affiliated with large healthcare agencies (I.e. Mercy, UPMC, AHN), contact your parent agency to submit supply requests.
- For all other providers, please complete the Allegheny County Emergency Services (ACES) [Resource Request Form](#) and email it to [Richard.Colella@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Richard.Colella@alleghenycounty.us) and [Michael.Spurr@AlleghenyCounty.us](mailto:Michael.Spurr@AlleghenyCounty.us).
- Please CC us on your supply requests at [DHS-COVID19Planning@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:DHS-COVID19Planning@alleghenycounty.us).

## Family Strengths Survey

- Please ask families in your network and your community partners to complete this survey by going here: <https://www.pediatrics.pitt.edu/family-strengths-survey>.
  - We are asking families to tell us what life is like in their household during the pandemic, as well as about their strengths and challenges.
  - Participants will have a chance to win a \$100 gift card (5 people randomly selected each week from everyone who answers the survey).

## Free Technology Help for Community-Based Organizations

- The University of Pittsburgh is providing free technology support to staff:
  - Help connecting to the internet, accessing email, using computers and computer applications, setting up mobile technology and troubleshooting software problems.
- To request assistance, call 412-624-6007, Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.

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. We keep adding things to these sections so keep checking it.
- 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.

## Staffing Challenges

- As a reminder, when you have used all your staff resources and invoked all your contingency plans (Level 3 Status), please contact your Deputy Director or [DHS-COVID19planning@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:DHS-COVID19planning@alleghenycounty.us) for help problem solving.
- We will try to match your needs with employees available to fill some gaps.

## Legislative/Policy Updates

## State and local updates

- PA unemployment filings have topped 1 million.
- Gov. Wolf will stop paying 9,000 state employees — more than 10% of the state workforce — by the end of next week. More than half are Department of Transportation employees who cannot work remotely. No essential personnel are to be laid off at this time.
  - This presents a bleak picture for state and county revenue.
- The PA Department of State announced a process for notaries to be approved to conduct remote notarizations through audio-visual communications for power of attorney, self-executing wills, standby and temporary guardianship, advance health care directives/health care powers of attorney and living wills.
- Port Authority reports a 75% drop in ridership and is eligible for \$141m in stimulus funds.

## Food

Marnie Schilken joined the call to share updates from the Food Bank.

- The Food Bank conducted another drive-up distribution today, serving almost 900 cars.
- They continue to see more than 100 people per day.
  - Please continue to refer people to their local food pantries.
- GPCFB has a lot of SNAP applications coming in and is hiring an additional person to process them.
- The pantry network remains strong; only 5% have closed.
- Senior boxes are being delivered tomorrow, Tuesday, 4-7-2020.

This week is “spring break,” meaning there will be some changes to school districts’ food distributions.

- PPS will be providing food in many of same locations.
- Check the [food map](#) for changes.
- 412 Food Rescue is providing bus stop food distributions
  - [Click here for route maps.](#)

Provider Food Access Calls are held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:30. See slide presentation for call-in information.

## AAA food information

- AAA has set up collaborations with the food pantry and LifeSpan to deliver food to 36 older adults at St. Justin’s Plaza Apartments. This is just one example of how organizations have been stepping up and collaborating to meet needs.

## Program Updates

### AAA

- No new updates since 4-6-2020.

### OCS

- For childcare resources, please share ELRC contact information ([elrc5@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:elrc5@alleghenycounty.us) or 412-350-3577) with your essential employees.
  - There are about 300 open spots.
- We have moved employment information and resources to [our website](#).
- Homeless network
  - We continue to work on isolation and quarantine space.
  - We started moving people into the safe haven hotel today! This facility is for individuals who are currently in shelters and need to be isolated or quarantined.
    - These rooms are for individuals who are highly vulnerable, have been exposed to COVID-19, or are COVID-19-positive but not in need of hospitalization.
    - We are working to identify individuals in need of these spaces.
      - We are following a strict referral process and will expand this process out to providers soon.
      - We will provide you with a decision tree to determine who fits the criteria.
      - Please also consult with the clients and make sure they want to come.
    - CHS is staffing the facility and may need some staffing help on the weekend.
      - Here is a [link to apply](#).
      - Hired individuals will be contracted employees of CHS.
    - Community Kitchen Pittsburgh is providing the meals.
      - Residents get 3 meals a day delivered to their door.
    - CYF is allowing us to use their transportation team to transport people from shelters to the hotel.
  - The provider call is on Tuesdays at 9:30 am. Call-in information is in the slide presentation.
  - DHS has scheduled a call with emergency shelters tomorrow at 10:30.
    - Email Health Department contact Kate Holko ([Kathryn.Holko@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Kathryn.Holko@alleghenycounty.us)) if you are interested in participating.

### Behavioral Health

- Drug and Alcohol
  - DDAP is holding an [Alcohol Withdrawal Management During COVID-19 Pandemic Webinar](#) on 4-13 at noon.
  - DDAP Update: Doorstep Methadone drop off is ONLY for people quarantined due to COVID-19, NOT for all people prescribed Methadone.
- As a reminder, CMS has been hosting regular stakeholder calls.
  - Transcripts can be found [here](#).
- As a reminder, Community Care issued [guidelines on providing MAT for OUD patients](#).
- Early intervention
  - No new updates since 4-1-2020.

### OID/Autism

- ODP put out [ODP Announcement 20-039](#) (Response to Requests for Provider Retainer Payments) to address the overwhelming number of requests from providers of supportive employment and other services who are struggling right now.
- Additional changes are being drafted to Appendix K of the Waiver Agreement, to include clarifications/corrections, annual plan extension, signature requirements and individual monitoring.
- 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>.
- Check out the resources on Autism published on [AID in PA](#). This site is a joint effort between ASERT (Autism Services, Education, Resources and Training) and the statewide HCQUs (Health Care Quality Units).

### CYF

- Our Office of Community Relations created some videos, please view and share these.
  - [Medication Safety Video](#)
  - [Soothing Baby Video](#)
- As a reminder, A Second Chance Inc. is hosting two webinars this week.
  - [Emotional Support for Healers Webinar](#)
  - [Responding to the Needs of Family: A Practitioners Perspective Webinar](#)
- [Our Clubhouse](#) has put all services online and has published some great resources.

### Courts/Jail

- No new updates since 4-2-2020.

### Transportation

- State guidance on MATP should be coming out this week.

### **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**