



COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting
April 7, 2020



General Information

As of the time of this meeting (4-7-2020 at 4:30 pm) there are 689 confirmed cases and 6 deaths in the County.

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

Nicole Molinaro from Women's Center and Shelter joined the call to talk about intimate partner violence (IPV).

- About IPV
 - There are many types of abuse that fall under IPV (e.g., mental, physical, emotional, neglect)
 - Nationally, chronic IPV impacts 25% of families.
 - In a pandemic, IPV incidents increase.
 - The UN Secretary General reported a worldwide surge.
 - China saw a threefold increase.
 - Meanwhile, the ability to reach out for help decreases because people are confined to home with their partner, cut off from their social support networks and/or unable to access health care.
- Local Trends
 - IPV-related police calls have been up 20-30% (City of Pittsburgh Police).
 - PFA filings are down 23-60% (child abuse reports are down 53-63%).
 - Hotline calls are down by 30-38% (Women's Center & Shelter).
- Local Resources
 - All local IPV organizations are operating (Women's Center & Shelter, Alle-Kiski HOPE Center, Center for Victims, Crisis Center North).
 - Shelters are open and hotlines/all other services are being delivered remotely.
 - Women's Center & Shelter has expanded services during the pandemic to meet increased need:
 - Expanded outreach to those who abuse and their victims
 - Offering Zoom consultation/trainings to providers upon request,.
 - If you are working with victims or have safety concerns, contact:
 - Hotline: 412.687.8005
 - E-mail: outreach@wcpittsburgh.org,
 - RUSafe App
 - www.wcpittsburgh.org/COVID/

The FISA Foundation compiled the following list of funding sources:

- [Emergency Action Fund-The Pittsburgh Foundation](#)
- [Richard King Mellon Foundation-COVID-19 Response Initiatives](#)
- [Behavioral Health Nonprofits Emergency Funding- Staunton Farm Foundation](#)
- [Crisis Mitigation Relief Fund- New Sun Rising](#)
- [Community Foundation of Greene County Emergency Response Fund](#)

As a reminder, 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.

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

- For agencies affiliated with large healthcare agencies (e.g., 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 AND Michael.Spurr@AlleghenyCounty.us.
- Please CC us on your supply requests (DHS-COVID19Planning@alleghenycounty.us).
- Limit requests to fewer than 500 items at a time to expedite the requests; bigger requests will not get filled.
- We are hearing that most supplies (with the exception of gowns) are currently moving more reliably to ACES.

Family Strengths Survey

- As a reminder, 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 (their strengths and challenges) in their household during the pandemic.
 - 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

- As a reminder, the University of Pittsburgh is providing free technology support
 - Connecting to the internet, accessing email, using computers and computer applications, setting up mobile technology and troubleshooting software problems
- To access, call 412-624-6007, Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

Staffing Challenges

- As a reminder, when you have used all your staff resources and invoked all your contingency plans (Level 3 Status), please notify your Deputy Director or contact us at DHS-COVID19planning@alleghenycounty.us to help you problem solve.
- We will try to match your needs with employees who may be able to step in to meet those needs.

We are continuing to improve our website, now located at 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 back.
- 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

- 1 in 6 PA workers have now filed for unemployment.
- Republicans in the PA House have moved two bills out of committee that would re-open construction businesses and allow other small businesses to re-open in the face of Gov. Wolf's order for them to remain closed.
- Pittsburgh area banks are already lending \$191.7M in small-business loans that are NOT SBA-backed or CARES loans. No numbers yet on CARES stimulus loans as first day to apply was last Friday.
- City Parks usage is up 83% since the pandemic began.

Food

There was a spike in food-related calls to 2-1-1 yesterday. We will continue to monitor this trend.

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

- Check the [food map](#) for changes.
- Please help us get the word out that there is still food available.
- 412 Food Rescue is providing bus stop food distributions. Check [412 Food Rescue’s Facebook page](#) for daily bus stop updates.

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

AAA food information

- The PA Department of Aging asked us to share information on food for pets. Pets are very important to our seniors and this is an area that can be overlooked in a crisis.
 - [Link from Dept of Agriculture for Pet Food Pantries](#)
 - [PA Animal Response Link](#)

Program Updates

AAA

- No new updates since 4-6-2020.

OCS

- For childcare resources, please share ELRC contact information (elrc5@allegHENYcounty.us or 412-350-3577) with your essential employees.
 - There are still open spots and we are still researching solutions for COVID-positive households.
- We have moved employment information and resources to [our website](#).
- Homeless network
 - We continue to work on isolation and quarantine space.

- As a reminder, we started moving people into the safe haven hotel yesterday (4-6-2020)! 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. It will also be made available for first responders who are unable to return home.
 - 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 you soon.
 - We will also provide a decision tree to determine fit.
 - Please also consult with the client and make sure they want to come.
 - CHS is staffing the facility and they 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 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 9:30am. Call-in information is in the slide presentation.
 - Furniture and thermometers are in demand from our providers, so we are working on those.

Behavioral Health

- Meeting schedule updates
 - BH Weekly provider meeting is this Thursday, 4-9-2020, at 10am. See slide presentation for call-in information.
 - Residential Provider Meeting is on Friday, 4-10-2020, at 9am. See invite for call-in information.
- Early intervention
 - No new updates since 4-1-2020.

OID/Autism

- ODP Announcements
 - [ODP Announcement 20-040](#) Residential Provider Checklist for Confirmed Cases of COVID-19.
 - ODP is suggesting providers reference this checklist when and if they get a positive case of COVID-19.
 - [ODP Announcement 20-041](#) Provider Guidance for Reporting Cases of COVID-19.
 - It highlights specific information to report so that the state can track confirmed cases.
 - As a reminder, additional changes are being drafted to Appendix K of the Waiver Agreement: clarifications/corrections, annual plan extension, signature requirements and individual monitoring

- Please 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>.
- Our staff is using a Life Star model to think through how we are supporting individuals and families. We will be sharing this out as a reference.

CYF

- No new updates since 4-6-2020.

Courts/Jail

- On March 27, the jail announced that a staff member had a confirmed case of COVID-19.
 - That individual did not have direct inmate contact, but the jail reports that it has nonetheless stepped up its response and is implementing additional measures including active screening for fever and respiratory symptoms in staff, contractors, inmates and individuals coming into the facility at intake.
 - Overall, four staff and seven inmates have been tested; the one staff case confirmed on March 27 was the only positive one.
- As previously reported, with the Court's approval, the jail is also restricting legal visits and has set up alternative ways for individuals to communicate with their attorneys.
- Per the [jail's website](#), the jail has also taken extra social distancing and sanitization precautions.
- Inmates continue to be allowed one free daily five-minute phone call.
- The PA Supreme Court decision on Juveniles in Detention was issued today: they denied the request to direct the reduction of the number of youth in detention, correctional and other residential facilities to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We will provide additional information as we receive it.

Transportation

- [State guidance on MATP was issued today](#). We are digesting the guidance and will share more at tomorrow's (4-8-2020) briefing.

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 687-2243.
- See the slide presentation for other key contacts.

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