



COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting
April 9, 2020



General Information

As of the time of this meeting (4-9-2020 at 4:30 pm) there are 759 confirmed cases and 12 deaths in the County.

- The Health Department released a [new dashboard](#) yesterday (4-8-2020) that provides more detail and new information such as the number of tests administered.

Dwight Boddorf from [Allegheny County Department of Veterans Services](#) joined the call to share resources for veterans.

- Please refer veterans or military members who need assistance to the Department of Veterans Services. They can help connect them to resources in the community.
- Veterans Benefits Administration payments will continue, so student veterans (about 8,000 in the region) will continue to be paid.
- The department's Resource List will be uploaded to [the website](#).

Communicating Changes in Operations

If you have changes in operations, continue to report that information to DHS staff. Please also use this format if you have edits/changes to what has already been reported.

- For BH providers, complete the Office of Behavioral Health Incident Report form and email the completed form to: incidentreports@alleghenycounty.us.
- For homeless providers, fill out the incident report form and email it to your assigned monitor and cynthia.shields@alleghenycounty.us.
- Others: DHS-COVID19Planning@alleghenycounty.us.

An Operational Changes Tracker will be made public soon.

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

Federal updates

Possible Fourth Wave stimulus update:

- The Senate adjourned on Thursday with no deal yet to deliver coronavirus aid as Democrats and Republicans rejected each other's bids for new spending.
- Senate Democrats blocked Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's attempt to deliver \$250 billion in more money for the Paycheck Protection Program, arguing that McConnell wasn't negotiating and money was urgently needed elsewhere.
- McConnell also stifled Democrats' attempts to pass a bill attaching the small business aid to an additional \$250 billion for hospitals and local governments.

State and local updates

- Gov. Wolf has ordered all schools to close through the remainder of the school year.
- Wolf signed an order allowing PEMA to commandeer and redistribute medical supplies as needed.
- Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) reports that the pandemic could cost Pennsylvania \$2.7 billion in lost tax revenue (7.5% of state budget) over the next 15 months as a best-case scenario, assuming businesses re-open by April 27th. If the statewide shutdown has to remain in place through May, PA would be facing a financial hit of \$3.7 billion in lost revenue, which would amount to roughly 10% of the annual budget.

Food

We are seeking clarity on food distribution for the rest of the school year now that schools are shut down.

- We will update you as soon as we hear.

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

- No new updates since 4-6-2020.

Program Updates

AAA

- The Pennsylvania Department of Aging has authorized continued administration of the HomeMeds program, which addresses medication safety, via Skype or Zoom.

OCS

- For childcare resources, please share ELRC contact information (elrc5@allegheycounty.us or 412-350-3577) with your essential employees.
 - We are waiting to hear whether Governor Wolf’s school closure guidance will impact childcare.
- We have moved employment information and resources to [our website](#).
- Homeless network
 - We continue to work on isolation and quarantine space.
 - We are now accepting safe haven hotel referrals from street outreach providers. Please reach out to Cynthia.Shields@AlleghenyCounty.US for street outreach referral guidance and procedures. Other referral mechanisms will be set up soon.
 - CHS still needs weekend staff for the facility.

- Please [apply here](#).
- The provider call is on Tuesdays at 9:30 am. Call-in information is in the slide presentation.

Behavioral Health

- The FCC published a New Telehealth Funding Opportunity.
 - [Directions to apply](#) can be found here.
- Support and Referral Help Lines
 - PA DHS: Support & Referral Helpline is available 24/7 at 1-855-284-2494.
 - [NAMI: National Alliance on Mental Illness](#) is available M-F 9 am -5 pm at 1-888-264-7972.
- Meeting schedule updates
 - The Residential Provider meeting will be held on Friday, 4-10-2020, at 9 am. See invite for call-in information.
- Early intervention
 - Upcoming Webinars for Families
 - [Families of Children receiving Infant/Toddler EI services](#) on 4-15-2020 at 12 pm
 - [Families of Children receiving Preschool EI Services](#) on 4-15-2020 at 2 pm

OID/Autism

- ODP shared an [Emergency Preparedness Supply Kit](#) to help individuals and families feel more in control of their environment.
- Continue to follow local information and directives, along with the PA Department of Health and the State Office of Developmental Programs.
 - Links to COVID-19 updates are available at MyODP.org: <https://www.myodp.org/mod/page/view.php?id=26808>.

CYF

- We put out a resource called Strategies for Home Visits today for staff and providers who are still conducting visits and investigations in the field.
- Webinars on Supporting Families in a Crisis will be held on 4-29-2020 at 9:30 am ([registration link](#)) and 5-6-2020 at 10 am ([registration link](#)).
- Self-Care Resource List
 - [Self-care Starter Kit](#) – This resource from the University of Buffalo is an introduction to self-care, developing a self-care plan and additional resources that may be of assistance.
 - [Self-care tools](#) – This resource is a collection of self-care tools, curated to specifically cope with COVID-19.
 - [Managing Stress](#) – This resource from the CDC offers ways for parents, first responders and other individuals to cope with and manage the ever-changing landscape of this crisis.
 - [Self-care Strategies](#) – NCWWI has put together a resource of self-care strategies and apps that may be of assistance to the child welfare workforce and families.
 - [Self-care Practices](#) – This resource offers 45 practices to improve your mind, body and soul.

Courts/Jail

- No new updates since 4-8-2020.

Transportation

- Traveler's Aid Update
 - Traveler's Aid will not replace gas cards if they are lost or stolen; they will only replace lost or stolen Connect cards.
- MATP [released guidance](#) for MATP riders, asking them to limit non-essential trips and to wear masks.

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