



**COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting**  
**May 1, 2020**



## General Information

As of the time of this meeting (5-1-2020 at 4:30 pm) there are 1,319 confirmed cases and 99 deaths in the County.

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

We will shift the schedule of these calls **to twice a week, Mondays and Thursdays only, beginning May 4<sup>th</sup>.**

Please submit stories and photos of how you are meeting needs during this time to:

[Evelyn.Whitehill@AlleghenyCounty.US](mailto:Evelyn.Whitehill@AlleghenyCounty.US).

We will launch the recruitment platform for temporary essential human service workers, using Jazz HR, next week.

- This will be open to all providers, even in surrounding counties.
- We will recruit through existing human services channels, such as GPNP, CONNECT and postings on provider career pages (not just essential human service organizations); media placement will be considered if/when the need grows.
- A [training session](#) for use of the platform is scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. Call-in information is in the slide presentation.

Our Global Links supply request system is working well.

- We received over 125 requests & completed at least 85 distributions.
- Due to supply issues, it is still difficult to obtain hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, N95 & surgical masks, and size M, L and XL gloves.
- Continue to submit supply requests through Global Links at <https://www.tfaforms.com/4813339>.
- Requests are being validated and prioritized. You will be contacted from [DHS-Covid19Supplies@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:DHS-Covid19Supplies@alleghenycounty.us) if your request is approved.

Census Update

- There has been an extension to the census deadline. The self-response deadline has been extended to 10-31-2020.
- The self-response rate is lower in 2020 (61%) than in 2000 or 2010.
- We are seeing lower response rates in lower-income communities.
- Please urge people in your community to respond. We are happy to support you in your efforts.

Child Welfare data

Referral trends

- March referrals declined by about 29% compared to March 2019. April is on pace for much lower referral counts compared to 2019.
- Mandated reporters, professionals who come in contact with children as part of their job, are making fewer referrals compared to 2019.

- The percentage of referrals getting screened in is about 10% lower than 2019. We are looking into reasons for this.
- Other sources of data to identify abuse and neglect include hospitalization records, 9-1-1 calls, arrests and poison control calls.

#### Placement trends

- The number of children in out-of-home placement has remained stable over the last few months. This is because both entries and exits have declined.

#### Practice Data

- 25% increase in family plans
- 25% increase in on-time contact with children
  - In April, 2,500 video contacts were recorded, outnumbering face-to-face contacts.
- In March, 96% of investigations were completed within 60 days.

#### 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 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 have received 225 requests to date.

We have acquired an inventory of Chromebooks and distributed 40 to clients and providers today.

We are continuing to improve our website, located at [www.bit.ly/COVID19DHSProviders](http://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](mailto:DHS-COVID19planning@allegHENYcounty.us). We will answer all questions and elevate issues to inform the network.

## Legislative/Policy Updates

#### Federal Updates

- 5th Federal Stimulus Bill: Negotiations for state and local aid package are initially focusing on whether to include protections for employers from pandemic-related lawsuits.

#### State and local updates

- Gov. Wolf announced guidelines for 24 counties that will be allowed to move into the "yellow phase" of re-opening starting next Friday, May 8th –
  - Allegheny County is remaining red; the stay-at-home order is still in place.
- With a bipartisan vote, the PA House sent a bill to the Senate on Thursday to ensure funding is appropriated for statewide COVID-19 testing.
- The City of Pittsburgh Controller announced that, without Federal assistance, the \$127m in lost revenue during the pandemic will cause massive public safety layoffs.

## Food

No new updates since 4-29-2020.

### AAA food information

- No new updates since 4-29-2020.

## Program Updates

### AAA

- May is Older Americans month. For additional information and materials your agency can use to participate in Older Americans Month, visit [www.acl.gov/oam](http://www.acl.gov/oam).

### OCS

- For childcare resources, please share ELRC contact information ([elrc5@allegHENYcounty.us](mailto:elrc5@allegHENYcounty.us) or 412-350-3577) with your essential employees.
- We have moved employment information and resources to [our website](#).
- Homeless network
  - Utilization Data update
    - Utilization in non-shelter programs has increased slightly.
    - Utilization in shelter programs is down by 13%.
  - Veterans Leadership Program (VLP) has received a significant budget increase under the VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) grant. The additional SSVF funds are in effect from May 2020 through July 2020.
    - For assistance: providers or veterans can call 412-481-8200 or complete an online intake at <https://www.veteransleadershipprogram.org/>.
  - We have begun partnering with the Health Department and FQHCs to expand health services in shelters.
    - DHS is scheduling a call for shelter directors with heads of FQHCs within the next couple weeks.
  - Safe Haven Hotel
    - About 50 individuals are currently housed.
    - The referral process is now open to healthcare providers.
    - As a reminder, referrals are now accepted from homelessness shelters, street outreach providers, healthcare 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](mailto:Jessica.Mckown@allegHENYcounty.us)
      - Jail referral contact: Jenn Batterton  
[Jennifer.Batterton@AlleghenyCounty.US](mailto:Jennifer.Batterton@AlleghenyCounty.US)

- OBH referral contact: Diane Johnson  
[Diane.Johnson@AlleghenyCounty.US](mailto:Diane.Johnson@AlleghenyCounty.US)
- Immigrants and Internationals referral contact: Brenda Green  
[bgreen@jfcspgh.org](mailto: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](mailto:Cynthia.Shields@alleghenycounty.us)).
- The Provider Network Meeting is held every Tuesday at 9:30 am; call-in information is in the slide presentation.

### Behavioral Health

- SAMHSA has released guidance for getting an Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) certification extension due to COVID-19.
- Early Intervention
  - As a reminder, OCDEL is holding webinars for EI families, on the use of telehealth in EI services, on Wednesday and Thursday of next week. See slide presentation for call-in information.
    - [Option 1](#): Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-3:15 pm
    - [Option 2](#): Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-3:15 pm

### OID/Autism

- As a reminder, [HCQU PA COVID-19 Packet 3](#) incorporates some additional strategies and best practices.
- 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

- No new updates since 4-29-2020.

### Courts/Jail

- No new updates since 4-27-2020.

### Transportation

- No new updates since 4-9-2020. Services are available.

### **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).
- 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**