



COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting
May 14, 2020



General Information

As of the time of this meeting (5-14-2020 at 4:30 pm) there are 1,551 confirmed cases and 159 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.

As a reminder, we invite you to submit your ideas about how to help people in Allegheny County at <https://neighborland.com/alleghenycounty/home?preview=c9ad1489989a4c44>

- We are very excited about the response – so far, we've had about 5,000 visits to the site. Please keep sharing the link!

Learn what you can do to increase civic participation at the following webinars:

- The Basics & New PA Voting Laws - May 15 at 3 pm
- Vote by Mail & High School Voting - May 22 at 3 pm
- Get-out-the-vote & U.S. Census Tips - May 29 at 3 pm
- Register here: www.tinyurl.com/everybodycountseverybodyvotes

Lance Chimka, Director, Allegheny County Economic Development joined the call to talk about the county's economic recovery plan to help residents, businesses and municipalities:

- Phase 1 "Safety Net" (Now)
 - Supporting agencies that are assisting our most vulnerable populations
 - Focus on homelessness outreach and food access—responding to process changes and increasing need
 - Challenges: the County hasn't yet received the CARES Act money; navigating remote work transition
 - Is working with the city, combining ESG and CD related funds and putting out an RFP soon to which providers are invited to reply. This pool of funds, totaling about \$12 million, can also cover incurred costs.
- Phase 2 "Stabilize"
 - Small business stabilization and reopening
 - 20,000 businesses (out of our 25,000 businesses) have 20 or fewer employees and have had trouble accessing earlier federal funding.
 - We need to help business absorb costs and restart.
 - Housing security
 - Rental assistance, eviction assistance, foreclosure avoidance
 - When the court eviction moratorium runs out, this problem will increase. We will need to stave off a wave of housing insecurity.
- Phase 3 "Stimulus"
 - Grow the economy again
 - Focus on most affected industries: hospitality and food, manufacturing, construction and retail to help them bounce back as quickly as possible
 - Municipal budget support

- Fund infrastructure projects — we will cover the capital costs for municipalities in dire circumstances

Overall Economic Outlook

- He remain optimistic — we have outperformed peer cities in past recoveries and are poised to do the same now
 - We have a diversified regional economy
 - Compared to 2008, when the robotics/tech sectors were very nascent, we are now a tech hub, so our prospects have improved.
 - Our healthcare systems are large and strong.
 - Our manufacturing base is strong and has an opportunity to expand to meet supply chain needs.
 - Brookings published s study about economic vulnerability by metro areas. Pittsburgh was near the top of the resiliency list!

Rayid Ghani of Carnegie Mellon University joined the call to discuss CMU’s work to inform state policy around the COVID-19 response.

- Several CMU departments collaborated to help support reopening decisions to minimize diffusion of the virus while maximizing return to work and minimizing long term economic impact.
- They developed data driven support tools to inform the state’s decision-making.
- They used publicly available data like Census and BLS and combined them with health data. They are also working on getting access to additional data sets (e.g., unemployment claims).
- They focus on risks and how to manage them: COVID case risk; ICU capacity risk; population density risk; population age risk; and re-opening contact risk.
 - Allegheny County is at the lower end of the scale on most risks, except:
 - Our reopening contact risk is mid-to-high.
 - Our population density risk is high.
- They are moving toward answering more micro-level questions—identifying people who are most at-risk of long-term unemployment, staying on or returning to public benefits.

DHS looked at six reopening metrics from various sources, using publicly available data, and assessed Allegheny County’s performance. Allegheny County is meeting most of these, except:

- ICU Bed capacity: we are a little below where CDC and WHO recommends (at least 30% of ICU beds available in case of a surge of need); we are at about 27% available today.
- We are also below in diagnostic testing capacity (the Harvard Global Health Institute recommends 152 tests per 100,000, we are not close to this one).

Please advise your clients of the health insurance deadline for furloughed/displaced workers:

- Furloughed workers have 60 days from the end of their health insurance coverage to enroll in the Affordable Care Act marketplace, which can offer some of the lowest cost options. If people don’t take advantage of that 60-day window, then they will be forced to wait until this fall to apply and their coverage won’t begin until January 2021. <https://www.healthcare.gov/get-coverage>
- Consumer Health Coalition, a local non-profit, can help people navigate the process and can be reached at 412-456-1877.

- The Allegheny County Health Department publishes a Guide to Health Care Resources for people who are Underinsured and Uninsured. https://www.alleghenycounty.us/uploadedFiles/Allegheny_Home/Health_Department/Programs/Chronic_Disease_Prevention/Insuredlinked.pdf

New DHS Draft Guidance

We have drafted two sets of guidance:

- Workplace Safety Guidance
 - Consistent with PA DOH's April 15, 2020 workplace safety order
 - This guidance seeks to build consensus across human service systems about minimum required safety protocols that are consistent with PA DOH's order and are needed for providers conducting in-person operations in the Yellow Phase.
 - Main points include:
 - Mask-wearing
 - Positive or probable case protocols
 - Temperature check protocol
 - Social Distancing
- Updates to DHS's prior guidance regarding 24/7 residential settings
 - Sets forth a new communication protocol among providers, DHS and ACHD, to promote effective coordination when there is a suspected case in your program
 - Provides additional detail in DHS's offsite isolation referral process
 - Offers suggestions of how to help clients meet the new restrictions of living with this pandemic

The drafts were sent out for your review. To submit comments on these drafts, please email DHS-COVID19Planning@alleghenycounty.us and write "Guidance feedback" in the subject line.

We are continuing to improve our website, located at www.bit.ly/COVID19DHSProviders.

- The [Operational Changes Tracker](#) is now live.
- You can reach us by email at DHS-COVID19planning@alleghenycounty.us. We will answer all questions and elevate issues to inform the network.
- Please submit stories and photos of how you are meeting needs during this time to Evelyn.Whitehill@AlleghenyCounty.US

Legislative/Policy Updates

Federal Updates

- 5th federal stimulus bill: House Democrats introduced a \$3 trillion bill and are expected to vote on it tomorrow.
 - Includes \$850b to support state and local governments as well as funding for human services programs, another round of Economic Impact Payments and much more.
 - Unfortunately, the bill is a "non-starter" in the Senate; Senate Republicans are working quietly on their own bill.

State and local updates

- PA Budget discussions are not progressing in current climate. It is unclear where House and Senate Republicans stand on the Governor's Budget.
 - Senate Republicans are suing Gov. Wolf in Commonwealth Court over business waiver program.
 - Intense partisan divide in Harrisburg over support for "rogue" counties attempting to reopen more quickly than Gov. Wolf's orders.
- This week, the Wolf Administration [announced](#) a decision to shift implementation of key provisions in the Family First Prevention Services Act from October 2020 to July 2021.
 - The federal legislation was enacted in 2018 to increase investments in child welfare prevention services and focus on family-based foster care when out-of-home placements are necessary.
 - Planning for implementation continues at the County and State levels.
- City of Pittsburgh faces a 25% revenue shortfall for March and April, totaling \$31m. This is true in lots of other municipalities throughout the region.
- Pittsburgh City Council passed an ordinance to expand the city's anti-discrimination code to include citizenship status and language as protected classes for housing and public accommodation, to protect immigrant communities.

Food

SHIM is holding a Drive-up Food Distribution at South Hills Village this Saturday, May 16th, from 11 am -1 pm.

Farmers to Families Food Box Program

- We will receive a huge influx of produce into our region.
- It will be distributed through the food bank's existing networks.

The Food Access Call is on Tuesdays at 3:30 pm. Call-in information can be found in the slide presentation.

AAA food information

- Grab and Go Meals
 - We got this off the ground quickly and now serve 849 participants with 4369 meals being delivered each week!
- Home Delivered Meals
 - Participants increased from 1936 in the week of March 1st to 2269 in the week of April 27th.

Program Updates

AAA

- OPTIONS
 - We are serving a very comparable number now compared to December 2019.
- Caregiver Support
 - Has grown during the pandemic
- Personal Care and Home Support Services

- Remained steady throughout COVID, with just a slight dip in April; projected to increase in May

OCS

- For childcare resources, please share ELRC contact information (elrc5@alleghenycounty.us or 412-350-3577).
 - Not every childcare program will open immediately, it will be a slow process over the next several weeks.
 - Trying Together has been hosting weekly roundtables with hundreds of providers.
 - Early Learning Resource Center and Trying Together shared Health and Safety Guidance for Early Learning Programs with providers this week.
 - Trying Together is working with providers to ensure that everyone has necessary supplies.
 - Some childcare programs have school age spots available in addition to early childhood spots.
- We have moved employment information and resources to [our website](#).
- Homeless network
 - Economic Impact Payments
 - Homeless providers report 364 individuals have requested an economic impact payment from the IRS so far. Please contact Peter Harvey (Peter.Harvey@alleghenycounty.us) for additional information; paper checks are still available.
 - National Alliance to End Homelessness has compiled a 7-part learning series.
 - [Click here to register](#). Registration is free for the first 2500 participants.
 - As a reminder, the Family Quarantine and Isolation space is open!
 - 2- and 3-bedroom apartments for families from the homeless system or CYF
 - To make a referral, contact Remy Harris (Remy.Harris@alleghenycounty.us).
 - As a reminder, we have gotten our first delivery of client cell phones.
 - Contact Gabe Krivosh (Gabriel.Krivosh@alleghenycounty.us) for more information.
 - Provider Network Meeting is held every Tuesday at 9:30 am. Call-in information can be found in the slide presentation.

Behavioral Health

- May is Mental Health awareness month. Here are a few highlighted resources:
 - State set up a mental health awareness website: <http://mha2020.org/>
 - Earlier this year, Governor Wolf launched [“Reach Out PA: Your Mental Health Matters.”](#)
 - DHS also announced a [statewide support and referral help lines](#)
- SAMHSA drafted a [Personal Protection Letter](#) for providers, indicating that we are an essential service in this pandemic.
- SUD
 - DDAP is seeking client feedback on confidentiality practices through the [SUD Confidentiality Requirements Survey](#).
 - DDAP ASAM Trainings are being offered for each level of care.

- Schedule of webinars can be found [here](#).
- Webinar Opportunities
 - Stress and Mental Health among Pregnant and Parenting Mothers during COVID-19
 - Tuesday, May 19 - 11:00 am - 12:00 pm CT
 - Register at <https://stressmentalhealth.eventbrite.com>
- Early Intervention
 - No new updates since 5-1-2020

OID/Autism

- [ODP Announcement 20-052](#) “HCBS in Counties Designated by the Governor as Yellow Phase” guidance has been updated.
- 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 <https://www.myodp.org/mod/page/view.php?id=26808>

CYF

- No new updates since 5-11-2020.

Courts/Jail

- No new updates since 5-7-2020.

Transportation

- As a reminder, State MATP issued a revised guidance for [MATP agencies](#) and [MATP Consumers](#), but the changes are not significant.

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