



**COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting**  
**June 4, 2020**



## General Information

Beginning the week of June 15<sup>th</sup>, we will only hold DHS Provider Meetings once per week on Thursdays.

- We will still have a meeting this coming Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Today we're joined by Carolyn Bebb, from the DHS's Free Tax Preparation Program.

- Traditional in-person tax services were suspended in March at DHS.
- The IRS has extended the deadline for filing 2019 tax returns until July 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Virtual tax prep appointments are available between May 26<sup>th</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup> on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. *Alternate hours may be provided upon request.*
- To participate:
  - Most individuals who made less than \$30,000 and families (more than one person) that made less than \$55,000 in 2019 are eligible for the program.
  - Taxpayers must have all tax documents, valid ID and social security cards, and date of birth for all individuals on the tax return. Direct deposit information is also recommended to expedite refund.
- Taxpayers can contact the Free Tax Prep Program at [FreeTaxPrep@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:FreeTaxPrep@alleghenycounty.us) to schedule a tax appointment or ask questions about the program.

### COVID-19 Metrics

Allegheny County is below the following benchmarks:

- Diagnostic testing capacity

Allegheny County is almost meeting the following benchmarks:

- Decline in new cases: we have seen some small increases over last three weeks, but overall number is still low.
- ICU bed capacity - Our bed capacity has been declining.

Allegheny County is meeting the following benchmarks:

- New cases below threshold: we have always been below the PA threshold over a rolling 14-day period. UPenn projects that new cases will continue to decline.
- Decline in total hospitalizations: we have seen declines in past two weeks
- Decline in Deaths: We have a low death rate and a decline in deaths.
- Increase or steady number of tests: we have seen an increase in the number PF tests administered over the last 4 weeks.
- Percent of Positive tests: our average positive rate is low and declining, around 3%.
- Rate of transmission below 1: we are at .91

### [Planning with Neighborland](#) (our online engagement platform)

- We have added new questions, including a 4<sup>th</sup> question coming soon. Please share your thoughts and help get the word out about these questions:
  - What's the best way to get the word out?
  - What kind of support is most helpful to you?
  - Are you worried about someone you care about?
  - Coming soon: How can we support the fight against racism and injustice?

We are continuing to improve our website, located at [www.bit.ly/COVID19DHSProversiders](http://www.bit.ly/COVID19DHSProversiders).

- [The Operational Changes Tracker](#) is now live.
- 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.
- Please submit stories and photos of how you are meeting needs during this time to [Evelyn.Whitehill@AlleghenyCounty.US](mailto:Evelyn.Whitehill@AlleghenyCounty.US)

## Legislative/Policy Updates

### Federal Updates

- Congress passed reforms to Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Senate considering extending federal unemployment payments.
  - Bill heading to President allows PPP funds to be spent over 24 weeks instead of the original 8 weeks and still be forgiven, and changes a 75-25 divide — which required businesses to spend 75 percent of the loan on payroll and 25 percent on other fixed costs such as rent and utilities — to a 60-40 ratio, allowing more flexibility for fixed costs.
  - Due to growing unemployment, conversations are beginning among Senate Republicans about what to do about federal unemployment aid after the July 31 expiration; one proposal is to extend the period but lower the amount from \$650 to \$450 a week.

### State and Local Updates

- Based on May revenue decreases, PA Department of Revenue announces losses to current Fiscal Year 2019-2020 General Fund are around \$2.6 billion.
- Allegheny County Board of Elections reports turnout for Tuesday's Primary at 40%, almost double over what has been normal for a second term presidential election year.
- Mayor Peduto calls for independent investigation into police action in breakup of peaceful protest in East Liberty earlier this week.

## Food

There is a Food Distribution scheduled in Natrona Heights tomorrow, June 5<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 pm at the Highlands High School Gym.

Our Out-of-School-Time providers have been closed during this period but served over 20,000 grab and go meals in May! See slide presentation for pictures.

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

### AAA food information

- We are seeing a huge interest in the Farmers Market vouchers, double to triple what we usually see.

## Program Updates

## AAA

- No new updates since 6/1/2020.

## OCS

- For childcare resources, please share ELRC contact information ([elrc5@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:elrc5@alleghenycounty.us) or 412-350-3577).
  - The Care Mobile is going out to make sure kids are up-to-date on their vaccines. They are still seeking locations and adding dates. Please get the word out to families.
    - Here is the [website](#)
    - Here is the [flyer for the program](#)
- We have moved employment information and resources to [our website](#).
- Homeless network
  - Quarantine and Isolation spaces are still open for individuals and families and have available spaces!
    - To make a referral for a family, contact Remy Harris ([Remy.Harris@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Remy.Harris@alleghenycounty.us))
    - Homeless referrals: [Jessica.McKown@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Jessica.McKown@alleghenycounty.us)
    - Office of Behavioral Health referrals: [Diane.Johnson@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Diane.Johnson@alleghenycounty.us)
    - Allegheny County Jail referrals: [Jennifer.Batterton@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Jennifer.Batterton@alleghenycounty.us)
    - Immigrants and Internationals referrals: [bgreen@jfcspgh.org](mailto:bgreen@jfcspgh.org)
  - As a reminder, client cell phones are available:
    - Contact Gabe Krivosh ([Gabriel.Krivosh@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Gabriel.Krivosh@alleghenycounty.us)) for more information.
  - As a reminder, eviction cases that were pending in March have resumed. We expect ~400 pending eviction cases. And the eviction moratorium expires July 11, so new eviction cases can be filed then.
    - For rental assistance and eviction prevention assistance, contact the Allegheny Link (1-866-730-2368).
      - Rental assistance (first month's rent and security deposit) is available to people who are in shelter or street homeless.
      - Eviction prevention: person must have a judgement from a magistrate
  - We've moved the Provider Network Meeting to every other Tuesday at 9:30 am. Call-in information can be found in the slide presentation. Our next meeting is on June 9<sup>th</sup> and will focus on behavioral health.

## Behavioral Health

- We are seeing an increase in stability in our network by working with CCBH on gap payments and broadening our use of telehealth.
- Webinar Opportunities
  - DDAP is holding a presentation on service descriptions aligned with ASAM beginning on July 7<sup>th</sup>. More information can be found [here](#).
- Early Intervention

- OCDEL put out some guidance on moving into the green phase.

### OID/Autism

- As a reminder, reference these announcements for reopening guidance:
  - **ODP Announcement 20-063** Reinstatement of SIS & PA Supplement for those in Yellow/Green Phases.
  - **ODP Announcement 20-062** Community Practice Supports (CPS) Readiness Tool
- As a reminder, Aid in PA has issued two helpful documents:
  - [Your Roadmap Back to the Community](#) – speaks to how to engage a family and individual and outline a plan for moving forward
  - [Resource Guide to Community Readiness](#) – helps fill in the gaps and points to resources that are important now that maybe we didn't think about before
- Continue to follow local information and directives, along with PA Department of Health and the State Office of Developmental Programs. Links to COVID-19 updates can be found on MyODP.org, <https://www.myodp.org/mod/page/view.php?id=26808>.

### CYF

- Steel Smiling is offering mental health treatment to any Black person in Pittsburgh who is uninsured.
- Children's Bureau and CDC are holding a webinar, Child Welfare Worker Safety in the Time of COVID: CDC Recommendations for In-Person Interactions with Families, on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm. Registration information has not yet been published.

### Transportation

- No new updates since 5/14/2020.

### **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 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**