

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) in Counties Designated by the Governor as Yellow Phase ODP Announcement 20-052 UPDATE

AUDIENCE:

All Stakeholders

PURPOSE:

To **provide updated guidance** to stakeholders about Governor Wolf's announcement of counties that are moving to the "yellow phase" and provide service-specific guidance to ODP stakeholders.

DISCUSSION:

NOTE: Updated guidance is in red.

Individuals who are COVID-19 positive or suspected positive should continue to self-isolate regardless of the color designation of the county where they reside. Individuals who are COVID-19 positive or suspected positive **should not** be engaging in community activities.

During the yellow phase some face-to-face and community activities may resume. This updated communication provides guidance for services rendered face-to-face and in the community in counties which are in the yellow phase. Please note for any HCBS that are occurring in counties remaining in the red phase, screening protocols and mask use described at the end of this document should be followed.

On May 8, 2020, 24 counties from the northwest and north-central regions of the state moved from red phase to yellow phase, which is part of the administration's [Process to Re-Open Pennsylvania](#). On May 15, thirteen additional counties in the southwest region will move to the yellow phase. This marks a reduction in restrictions on work and social settings.

These counties were deemed ready to move to the yellow phase because of low per-capita case counts, the ability to conduct contact tracing and testing, and a population density that will allow for the containment of community spread. For more information about how this decision was made, stakeholders can review the [Risk-Based Decision Support Tool](#) which was developed in partnership with Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) to strike a balance between economic concerns and public health risks.

The Planning Process

It is highly encouraged that the Individual Support Plan (ISP) teams use the ODP Individual Transition Guide (issued May 11th) in conjunction with the probe guidance in the annotated ISP to assess risk associated with COVID-19 and determine for each individual who resides in a county which is in the yellow phase which services and/or community activities may be resumed or started and what supports the individual must receive in order to be able to safely resume activities or engage in new activities. In situations where the ISP team has not met, activities in the community and necessary supports for those activities should be established by the individual, family, and currently authorized service providers using the ODP Individual Transition Guide. All conditions outlined in the [Intellectual Disabilities/Autism Waivers Operational Guidance](#) (version 1.0 or any published revisions) and the [Adult Autism Waiver Operational Guidance](#) (version 1.0 or any published revisions) continue to apply.

To assist with this transition, ODP is providing the following service-specific guidance for stakeholders in counties moving to the yellow phase beginning May 8, 2020.

For all HCBSs, the screening protocols, the use of masks, and information on handwashing discussed at the end of this announcement should be followed.

Community Participation Supports (CPS)

- CPS licensed facilities remain closed in counties in the yellow phase, so facility-based CPS cannot be rendered.
- CPS should continue to be provided in private homes and remotely until there is a plan for resuming activities.
- Activities in the community and necessary supports for those activities should be established by using the ODP Individual Transition Guide. Any changes in support need, goals or outcomes that require ISP changes must be discussed with the ISP team.
- CPS in the community may resume in limited scope. Activities must be allowed by the Governor's order and all appropriate steps must have been taken for the individual to safely engage in the activity.
- Visitation with small numbers of friends and family using proper social/physical distancing and the use of masks are encouraged.
- Activities in the community may not include more than 3 participants.
- If transporting individuals, the total number of passengers in a vehicle should be limited to 3.
- Outdoor activities aimed at wellness are highly encouraged.
- If a vehicle is used to transport an individual, all surfaces must be cleaned using a disinfectant after each use.

Residential Services

- Residential services should continue to follow all guidance issued for staff and resident screening for COVID-19 symptoms and infection.
- Visitation restrictions in residential homes are at the discretion of the residential provider and should include risk assessment of individuals who reside in the home. Visitor screening for COVID-19 must be implemented.
- Support for residents to access the community may resume in limited scope. Activities must be allowed by the Governor's order and all appropriate steps must have been taken for the individual to safely engage in the activity.
- Activities and necessary supports for those activities should be established using the ODP Individual Transition Guide.
- Outdoor activities aimed at wellness are highly encouraged.
- Visitation with small numbers of friends and family with proper social/physical distancing and the use of masks are encouraged.

Supports Coordination

- Supports Coordination should continue to be provided by telephone or video conferencing solutions following the guidance issued in [ODP Announcement 20-019 Update](#).

Transportation Trip

- Transportation services may be provided for accessing the community as allowed by the Governor's order and as per the plan established by using the ODP Individual Transition Guide.
- No more than 3 passengers should be transported at one time unless the vehicle is a multi-passenger van and social distancing can be accommodated.
- Consideration should be given to passenger for separation/proximity in vehicle.
- All surfaces of the vehicle must be cleaned using a disinfectant after each use.

Small Group Employment

- Consider operating in smaller groups to allow for social/physical distancing and while on the van/bus, do not to exceed 3 passengers.
- Instead of gathering at the facility, consider alternate methods such as transporting directly from the participants' homes to the job site and back to their homes.
- All surfaces of the vehicle must be cleaned using a disinfectant after each use.

Supported Employment, In-Home and Community Support, Companion and all other Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)

- All services should continue to be provided remotely whenever possible.
- An individual's participation in additional community activities allowed under the Governor's order and the support necessary to allow the individual to participate in those activities should be established by the ISP team using the ODP Individual Transition Guide.

For Masking, Screening, and Handwashing Guidance, view [ODP Announcement 20-088: Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Guidance on Masks Screening and Handwashing](#).