

Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

At-a-Glance

Level of Community Spread

Update Issued: 03/26/2021

Please monitor weekly the level of County Community Spread. The most accurate and current information is available at the following link: [COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard](#).

ODP Function	All Levels of Community Spread Operation Implementation
Requirements for All Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiver flexibilities in Appendix K as enumerated in the Operational Guide are extended through at least December 31, 2021. ODP will continue to monitor the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and update the Operational Guides as appropriate. • Continue to comply with the requirements for wearing face coverings for every individual age two and older. Requirements can be found in the updated ODP Announcement 20-088. • For providers licensed pursuant to 55 Pa Code Chapters 2380, 2390, 6400 or 6500, staff can continue to take the Modified Medication Course in place of the Standard Course until June 30, 2021. Please review ODP Announcement 20-114. • Providers must complete the first Health Risk Screening Tool (HRST) for all individuals receiving Residential Habilitation and Life Sharing services (licensed and unlicensed) by June 30, 2021.
Compliance with 55 Pa. Code Chapters 2380, 2390, 6100, 6400, and 6500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicable regulatory suspensions under Governor Wolf’s Proclamation of Disaster Emergency remain in effect. • Additional information on regulatory suspensions can found at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ODP Announcement 21-016 (Guidance for maintaining regulatory compliance in Community Participation Support facilities). ○ ODP Announcement 20-032, Modifications 1 and 2. • All providers should resume orientation and annual training activities consistent with the Updated ODP FAQ.
Quality Assessment and Improvement (QA&I)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODP implemented an interim QA&I process for Year 2 in FY 2021-2022. As of right now, the interim process is anticipated to include a combination of remote and face-to-face activities including individual interviews; ODP will reevaluate closer to the cycle commencement.
Independent Monitoring for Quality (IM4Q)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All interviews are conducted using remote technology in FY 2020-2021. No in-person interviews are permitted.
Supports Intensity Scale (SIS™) and PA Plus Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessments are conducted virtually or remotely until further notice as stated in Updated ODP Announcement 20-063.
Administrative Entity (AE) Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provider orientation classes are conducted remotely. • The functions outlined in the AE Operating Agreement can be performed remotely, as needed by the AE to maintain safe practices.

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ODP Function	<u>All Levels of Community Spread</u> Operation Implementation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage large meetings continue to be conducted remotely given the contact with vulnerable populations.

ODP Function	<u>Low Community Spread</u> Operation Implementation
Compliance with 55 Pa. Code Chapters 2380, 2390, 6100, 6400, and 6500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For service locations in a county with low community spread, the provider must resume annual individual physical examinations and biennial staff physical examinations. Examinations should be scheduled for the first available date and may be conducted remotely.
Licensing Inspections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All inspections will be completed in-person unless extenuating circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic exist. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providers will be given at least 30 days' notice prior to ODP commencing an on-site annual inspection. Licensing staff will follow the provider's COVID-19 symptom screening process. Licensing staff will continue to follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) guidance for personal protective equipment (PPE) and mask use.
Investigations Completed by Certified Investigators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providers may resume face-to-face investigations by certified investigators. Providers must continue to comply with instructions for screening and mask use. Investigations should be in-person whenever possible and appropriate. If pre-interview screening results lead to a determination that an individual who needs to be interviewed has tested positive for COVID-19, is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, or has had contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct the interview remotely (video methods are preferred but telephone interviews can be conducted if video methods are not feasible) and obtain written statements. Coordinate investigation activities completed by other entities such as protective services or law enforcement.
AE Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AEs that are located in counties with low community spread may resume face-to-face intake and eligibility activities.
Supports Coordination Organizations (SCOs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face-to-face Supports Coordination (SC) activities may be conducted when the SC is able to conduct wellness checks and monitoring safely and effectively. When planning for face-to-face SC activities, consideration should be given to the participant or family's preferences for face-to-face SC activities. During face-to-face activities all instructions for screening for COVID-19 and mask use must be followed.

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ODP Function	<u>Moderate / Substantial Community Spread</u> Operation Implementation
<p>Compliance with 55 Pa. Code Chapters 2380, 2390, 6100, 6400, and 6500</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspension of requirements for individuals to receive annual physical examinations and staff to receive biennial physical examinations.
<p>Licensing Inspections</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual inspections are conducted using the remote inspection method. Complaint and incident licensing inspections are conducted using the remote inspection method unless extenuating circumstances exist that require in-person inspections.
<p>Investigations Completed by Certified Investigators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified investigations will continue using remote methods whenever possible. Video methods are preferred, but telephone interviews can be conducted if video methods are not feasible.
<p>AE Processes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with ODP Announcement 20-101, AEs will continue to engage with each Community Participation Support (CPS) provider with a CPS program located in a county with a moderate or substantial level of community spread, will track facility closures and projected reopening dates, and will work with providers to develop reopening plans. • AEs that are located in counties with moderate or substantial community spread may only conduct remote intake and eligibility determinations.
<p>Supports Coordination Organizations (SCOs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCs should continue to use remote means (telephone or video conferencing solutions) for all SC activities. Face-to-face monitoring should be conducted only when the SC has been unable to effectively conduct wellness checks and remote monitoring to ensure health and safety. During face-to-face contact, all instructions for screening for COVID-19 and mask use must be followed.