



State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Human Services

ANN SILVERBERG WILLIAMSON
Executive Director

Division of Services for People with Disabilities

ANGELLA D. PINNA
Director

Dear valued individuals in services and family members,

The Division of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD) continues to take preventative actions to ensure the health, safety, and wellbeing of those in our services in response to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) illness. We recognize that your loved ones may be more vulnerable and we are making changes to our practices to best support individuals and their families. This letter is to inform you of some of those changes DSPD is making at this time.

Day Services: Whether or not an individual should continue attending their Day program is for the individual in services, their family, and their support team to decide. The individual's needs, choice, personal risk, group size of their services, and the safest available alternatives should guide any change. If it is agreed that the individual should not attend their Day program, or if a Day service is no longer an available option, the support team will make appropriate alternative arrangements.

If changes need to be made to an individual's Person-Centered Support Plan (PCSP) budget to accommodate a change in services, please work with your Support Coordinator. DSPD has given Support Coordinators guidance on how to make needed adjustments quickly and effectively during this unprecedented time.

Residential Services: Providers will follow Utah Department of Health (UDOH) and CDC guidelines to screen individuals who receive residential services for symptoms. Individuals who show symptoms and other residents in close contact will be kept at home. An individual may be restricted from leaving their room or their home if they are quarantined by a medical professional or local Health Department Authority. An individual's rights cannot be involuntarily restricted without following the emergency rights restriction process.

Should residential services need to change or be modified to meet the needs of the individual receiving services, DSPD has a team ready to help problem solve and get the right supports in place quickly. For example, a concern has been raised about behaviors increasing because individuals are limited in accessing the community or some of their routines. This may mean their current setting isn't a good fit in the current circumstances, or presents a risk to the individual. DSPD's team would work immediately to find an alternative to maintain services and supports while meeting the health, safety, and wellness needs of the individual. This DSPD team can be reached at Residentialsupport@utah.gov. If changes need to be made to an individual's Person-

Our Mission is to Promote Opportunities and Provide Supports for Persons with Disabilities to Lead Self-Determined Lives.

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Centered Support Plan (PCSP) budget to accommodate a change in services, please work with your Support Coordinator. DSPD has given Support Coordinators guidance on how to make needed adjustments quickly and effectively during this unprecedented time.

Visitors: Only essential staff and visitors, including parents or guardians, will be allowed to visit individuals in person. Essential visitors and staff will be screened with a series of questions and a temperature check by sanitary means where equipment is available, and granted or denied physical visitation based on guidance from UDOH. We encourage families and individuals to visit by telephone or through video chat (Skype, FaceTime, Google Hangouts, etc.) as much as possible.

Telehealth: Until further notice, Support Coordinators will meet with families and individuals through Telehealth or video conferencing instead of visiting in-person. Telehealth requires a device with internet connection. If you do not have access to the internet, your Support Coordinator will also be able to provide services by telephone upon request. To access Telehealth, contact your Support Coordinator for instructions.

Person-Centered Support Plan (PCSP) meetings: PCSP meetings can still be held through telehealth if the team members are able to meet. However, UDOH has approved for plans that end in March or April to be extended for an additional year. This means that individuals and their support teams will not be required to meet until March or April of 2021 and all goals, supports, and services will remain the same for this year. Please keep in mind that a meeting and changes in goals, services, and supports can be requested at any time throughout the plan year.

Assessments: Assessments such as the Comprehensive Brain Injury Assessment (CBIA) and the Minimum Data Set – Home Care (MDS-HC), required yearly, or the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS), required every five years, are also approved to be extended for an additional year and will be scheduled by DSPD staff accordingly. Those that are already scheduled may be completed through a telehealth platform if possible, or may be postponed - the decision on this will be discussed with the individual in services, their family, and their support team.

Quarantine and Emergency Procedures: If a provider must close, quarantine, or make significant changes to their practices due to COVID-19, they are required to notify the individual, their caregivers and guardians, medical professionals, DSPD, and the Local Health Department. This will be done through the incident reporting process already in place. Please notify your Support Coordinator of any confirmed case of COVID-19 so they can help you through the process.

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If you have questions about COVID-19, visit <https://coronavirus.utah.gov>. If you have health-related questions, call the Utah Department of Health information line at (800) 456-7707.

For questions specific to DSPD, email dspd@utah.gov or call (801) 538-4091. DSPD offices continue to remain open and we encourage you to contact us, or your Support Coordinator, with any concerns.

For more information on COVID-19, please visit one of the resources below:

Utah Specific:

- coronavirus.utah.gov
- <https://dspd.utah.gov/covid-19-information/>
- <https://utahparentcenter.org/covid-19-resources-to-stay-healthy/>
- <https://www.covid19mutualaidslc.com>

Helpful resources for understanding COVID-19 in plain language:

- Booklet (Developed by Vermont): <https://ddc.vermont.gov/sites/ddc/files/documents/newsevents/Plain%20Language%20Information%20on%20Coronavirus.pdf>
- Spanish version of booklet (Translated by California): <https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/resource/plain-language-information-on-covid-19-spanish-version/>
- Video (Developed by Oregon): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJ8eeC-tVD4&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR16pmV-mjxy6Ku6KQNIMtHWD_AgX_29QCEzYE64AWLEY9xUG4Ghb6ra-rU

An additional note to parents, spouses, and guardians about compensation for providing Activities of Daily Living (ADL) and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) support for your family member: Compensation through self-administered supported living for up to 40 hours per week

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will be available beginning April 1, 2020. If you are interested in compensation, please begin tracking the hours that you provide support. More information about caregiver compensation will be available in the coming week.

Thank you for your continued support.

Angie Pinna
Division of Services for People with Disabilities