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LYNN T. BESHEAR
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TO: DDD PROVIDER NETWORK
FROM: Division of Developmental Disabilities
RE: Response to COVID-19 (rel11)
DATE: 4/16/20

COVID-19 Guidance for Alabama Support Coordination Agencies
Division of Developmental Disabilities Services

Eligibility or Service Appeals

To ensure DDD is responsive to request for Appeals during this COVID-19 crisis, please email the Appeal requests to ADMH-DDD.Questions@mh.alabama.gov

Priority COVID-19 Testing

As inferred below, DDD providers considered to be involved in healthcare as indicated in 3a below. DDD suggest when a staff is reporting symptoms and testing is determined warranted by a designated person on provider staff, the staff referred to the physician might be provided something from the provider entity and possibly a copy of the letter from the commissioner relating to the ‘essential worker’ designation. See below further guidance from ADPH:

Workers in the DD-funded residential settings who have a symptom(s) should:

1. *Do not go to the ER, unless they are experiencing a serious symptom like breathing difficulty*
2. *Rather, call the number that is constantly advertised on TV to set up an appointment to obtain testing, or*
3. *The worker can call their physician to set up an appointment to be examined and referred for testing, according to the process that provider uses, which would be a State lab, a private one or in the hospital that that particular physician uses.*
 - a. *Dr. Harris said that physicians have been instructed to notify the lab that the person being referred is involved in healthcare so that the policies and procedures that are in place for that group would be implemented.*
 - b. *There is no need for a letter from ADPH.*

By now the daily screening for temp and other symptoms should be imbedded in all workers’ routines, along with physical distancing, as much as possible under their particular care-giving circumstances. Also, use of masks and gloves where appropriate, with reuse of masks’ procedures followed. Cloth masks are being used and an advantage is that several changes a day can be made, if indicated, with daily laundering. (TN does that in their hospitals, due to mask shortages.)

FAQs NEW EMAIL!!

Please send any questions you may have relating to COVID-19, services, etc., to:

ADMH-DDD.Questions@mh.alabama.gov