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TO: DDD PROVIDER NETWORK
FROM: Division of Developmental Disabilities
RE: Response to COVID-19 (rel22)
DATE: 01/25/21

COVID-19 Guidance for Alabama HCBS Waiver Service Providers
Division of Developmental Disabilities Services

Public Health Emergency (PHE) Extension

The PHE has been extended until April 21, 2021, so the Appendix K would end no later than October 21, 2021. With the PHE extension ending in April, the enhanced FMAP will be available through June 30, 2021.

Funding Update

DDD has received the money back that was not spent from the original CARES funding. Providers were provided through January 22, 2021 to have all receipts for expenses incurred submitted. Providers should have submitted an invoice for expenses incurred through December 31st; a separate invoice for January expenses incurred through January 15, 2021; and also submitted separate invoices for Phase I and Phase II expenses.

The 19% increase in Residential Habilitation will continue in accordance with the updated extended PHE end date referenced above.

Vaccinations

ADMH-DDD participated in a weekly call facilitated by AARP to discuss the Alabama Department of Public Health's (ADPH) vaccination plan. Dr. Mary McIntyre, Chief Medical Officer, and Carolyn Bern, Director of Governmental Affairs and Community Relations, both were on the call to present information as of Friday, January 22nd. We will continue to participate in weekly calls and provide you the most updated information.

According ADPH, the COVID-19 vaccine is being administered in phases. Alabama is currently in Phase 1a. Healthcare workers in Phase 1a include, but are not limited to, emergency medical service personnel, nurses, nursing assistants, home healthcare personnel, physicians, technicians, therapists, phlebotomists, pharmacists, students and trainees, contractual staff not employed by the healthcare facility, medical supply delivery, mortuary services, and persons not directly

involved in patient care, but who could be exposed to infectious agents that can be transmitted in the healthcare setting (e.g., clerical, dietary, environmental services, laundry, security, engineering and facilities management, administrative, billing, and volunteer personnel). **In essence those healthcare workers (provider DSPs and nurses) providing direct contact with vulnerable individuals are included in Phase 1a (This includes direct contact staff working in self-directed services).** Direct contact does not include those providing virtual services.

As of January 18th, those identified in Phase 1a above and those in Phase 1b who are 75 years and older, and first responders, including firefighters and law enforcement **may receive the vaccine now**. Individuals served and staff as identified above may schedule an appointment with ADPH by calling the [COVID-19 Vaccine Scheduling Hotline](https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/COVID19/vaccine.html) at 1-855-566-5333. If an appointment is not available at this time, your name will be taken, and you will be contacted when an appointment is available.

ADPH asked that you not call hospitals directly to schedule an appointment for the vaccine as they are being overwhelmed with calls.

After vaccination, it is recommended that individuals continue with the other prevention measures, such as washing your hands, wearing a mask, staying six feet apart, and limiting gatherings.

Resources

President Biden's National Strategy for the Covid-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/National-Strategy-for-the-COVID-19-Response-and-Pandemic-Preparedness.pdf>

Alabama's Vaccination Allocation Plan with the priority phases and information on vaccine availability: <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/COVID19/vaccine.html>

For general information about COVID-19, the COVID-19 Information Hotline continues to be available at 1-800-270-7268 or email covid19info@adph.state.al.us. for general questions.

Alabama's COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Dashboard (which is updated every Monday) <https://alpublichealth.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=d84846411471404c83313bfe7ab2a367> or arcg.is/0brSGj

Graphics created by the Office of the Governor: <https://governor.alabama.gov/assets/2020/07/2020-Mask-Mandate-Graphics-ALL.pdf>

Getting a Covid-19 Vaccine – Infographic See Attached

COVID-19 Vaccine Information in Plain Language: <https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/COVID-19-Vaccine-Information-in-Plain-Language.pdf>

Article: Down syndrome tied to 10 times the risk of COVID-19 deaths

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/10/down-syndrome-tied-10-times-risk-covid-19-death>

Article: COVID-19 Mortality Risk in Down Syndrome Results from a Cohort Study of 8 Million Adults <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M20-4986>

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

ADMH-DDD.Questions@mh.alabama.gov

Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine



COVID-19 is a virus that has made many people very sick. Some people have died.



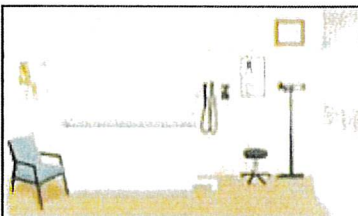
Now there is a vaccine. The vaccine is in a shot.



The vaccine shot puts medicine in my body to keep me from getting COVID-19.



When it's my turn, I can get the COVID-19 shot to stay healthy.



I will go to a doctor's office or the drug store to get my shot.



I will check in when I arrive, sit, and wait for the nurse to call my name.



I will roll up my sleeve. The nurse will rub a cold wipe on my arm. It might smell funny.



Then the nurse will give me the vaccine shot. It will feel like a pinch or a prick. I will sit very still.

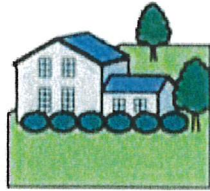


The nurse will put a band-aid on my arm.

Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine Pt. 2



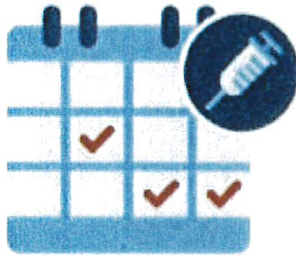
I may need to wait to make sure I am safe and healthy to go home.



After the nurse tells me it's OK, I am done for today. Now I can go home.



I need 2 COVID-19 vaccine shots to stay healthy.



I will come back in 3-4 weeks to get the second shot.



When I come back, I will go through the same steps to get my second shot.



After the shots, my arm may be sore. I may have a headache or feel tired.



I will feel fine after a couple of days.



I will still need to wear a mask for awhile.



I did my part to stay safe and keep others healthy!