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TO: DDD PROVIDER NETWORK
FROM: Division of Developmental Disabilities
RE: Response to COVID-19 (rel30)
DATE: 09/27/22

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

COVID-19 Update

The CDC updated guidelines regarding COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation Protocols. Please ensure your agency has reviewed the latest release intended for use by healthcare professionals and that you have updated your Infectious Disease Emergency Plans for COVID-19 protocols as applicable.

Below are links you may find beneficial as you seek to stay informed about COVID-19 and ensure that individuals, families and direct support staff are informed.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html> Ending Isolation and Precautions for People with COVID-19: Interim Guidance

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/if-you-were-exposed.html#print> What to Do If You Were Exposed to COVID-19

IPMS Update

All incidents relating to COVID-19 exposure, hospitalizations and deaths are required to be reported through the Incident Prevention Management System (IPMS). Please ensure that the COVID-19 data is tracked and reported to our Quality Assurance Office **and** Medicaid.

In order to report an incident of COVID testing and/or diagnosis, you will follow the same steps as you would to enter any GER, by logging into Therap®, going into the Individual tab, locating General Event Reports (GER), then clicking “New.” You will be prompted to identify the program and then the person involved. The crosswalk below would then be followed to complete the remainder of the GER.

To further clarify, the “Event Type” chosen on the first screen will be “Other.” Depending on the level of harm, based on the definition below, you would indicate a medium or high notification level. Once you fill out the other required information on the first screen, you will choose “next.” On the next screen you will choose “Communicable Disease” as the “Event Type.” The “Event Subtype” chosen will be “COVID-19.” The “Status” options available after the subtype are: Contact/Exposure, Negative, Positive, Symptoms, and Tested. You would indicate the person was “tested” and then if the result was “positive” or “negative” in the associated checkboxes under status. All other required information would be completed in the remaining fields as outlined in the IPMS Manual and supplemental crosswalk.

COVID 19 Testing and Diagnosis – Both testing for COVID-19 and diagnosis of COVID-19 should be reported as “Other” in the Therap[®] system. Guidance: Testing for COVID-19 will be classified as Level of Harm-2 and diagnosis of COVID-19 will be classified as Level of Harm-3. A death resulting from COVID-19 is to be reported as an unexpected death classified as Level of Harm-4.

Critical Incident Type	Critical Incident Definition	Therap [®] Data Entry Instructions	Providers Must Notify the Following Within the Prescribed Timelines	Level of Harm	Responsible Entity
<p>COVID 19 Testing and Diagnosis</p>	<p>Both testing for COVID-19 and diagnosis of COVID-19 should be reported as “Other.”</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Testing for COVID-19 will be a Level 2</i> • <i>Diagnosis of COVID-19 will be a Level 3</i> • <i>Death from COVID-19 will be an Unexpected Death</i> 	<p><u>Under Basic Information:</u> Event Type: Other Notification Level: Medium or High</p> <p><u>Under Event Information:</u> Event Type: Communicable Disease Event subtype: COVID-19 Status: Choose the appropriate option that accurately describes the individual’s status.</p>	<p>Immediately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAS Nurse/Medical Personnel • EMS if transport to ER is necessary <p>ASAP but within one hour:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervisor/Manager/Administrat or • RCS Office <p>ASAP but within 24 hours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family/Guardian/Designated Contact • Support Coordinator 	<p>2 or 3 or 4</p>	<p>Provider or Support Coordinator fully completes the GER in Therap[®]</p>

Please send any questions you may have relating to COVID-19, services, etc., to: ADMH-DDD.Questions@mh.alabama.gov