

The Department continues to post other Department COVID-19-related information, including a series of Q&As on the COVID-19 page on our website www.nd.gov/dhs/ to help ensure that various partner and provider groups have up-to-date information on recommended practices as well as program and policy changes.

The Department has hired a temporary Logistics Manager to assist with strategic and tactical activity as it relates to COVID-19.

Regional Human Service Centers

- Secured 350 new telehealth technology licenses
- Created Core Clinic Staffing Plan with expected timeline to reduce total onsite staff with all others working remotely through telehealth and outreach services
- Continue daily screening for staff and clients

North Dakota State Hospital

- Initiated surgical mask wear for direct patient care
- Opened temporary quarantine unit and initiated quarantine of all new hospital admissions
- Readied permanent isolation/quarantine unit
- Secured required PPE for isolation/quarantine unit
- Continue daily screening for staff and clients
- N95 mask fit testing for additional staff

Human Service Zones

- Continuing to provide services to individuals and families in need through phone, email, fax and virtual meetings.
- Procured personal protective equipment that will allow them to continue to respond to child and adult protection reports in homes. In addition, home visiting staff have also procured the needed equipment to continue serving people in their homes.

Childcare

- Began processing provider applications for Childcare Emergency Operating Grant (CEOG) program
- Provided significant 1:1 support to childcare providers across the state as they worked to modify operations to follow updated operating practices and understand components of CEOG
- Created a series of resources available on DHS COVID Provider Resource page to establish guidance for CEOG

Behavioral Health Division

- Provided lock boxes to Opioid Treatment Programs for individuals who will be receiving take home medications.
- Routed a survey to behavioral health providers to identify service changes, gaps, barriers, and needs to continue services.
- Developed a guidance for behavioral health providers on [Using telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic](#).
- Developed and disseminated new resources for www.parentslead.org and www.behavioralhealth.nd.gov/covid-19 including [Co-parenting During a Pandemic](#) and [How to Protect Your Family During the COVID-10 Pandemic - Tips from a New York physician](#).

Children & Family Services Division

- Provided additional guidance to foster families related to childcare and other emerging topics
- Coordinated efforts to ensure Child Protection Services workers had the PPE needed to continue to protect the safety of children

Economic Assistance Division

- Posted new combined resource explaining key provisions of food assistance programs, including how to apply for SNAP, how EBT cards work and don't work in delivery situations, etc.
- Published guidance on the intersection of the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) subsidy and the state's new CEOG grant
- Published information about SNAP supplemental benefit that will be available to households that had not previously received the maximum allowable SNAP benefit (available for March and April)

- Decreased maintenance-oriented downtime of the SPACES eligibility portal to help ensure broader access to the system for both clients and workers

Aging & Adult Services Division

- Provided updated guidance to qualified service providers and HCBS staff related to safety practices and precautions during COVID-19
- Worked with network of senior meal providers to support the conversion of 170+ meal sites to “grab and go” / take-out sites
- Managing the distribution of additional Older American Act nutrition dollars to support increased demand for senior meals (available to anyone age 60+ who is food insecure)

Medicaid

- Medical Services, DD, and Aging division made revisions to the Appendix K application as directed by CMS. The revised documents were submitted on April 3, 2020 and are available online for review.
- On April 1, 2020 Medical Services submitted a list of items for CMS to consider as Disaster State Plan Amendments.
- Temporary policy documents as related to the COVID-19 national emergency were posted online. These explain issues such as eligibility, provider enrollment, durable medical equipment, pharmacy, and nursing homes.

Life Skills and Transition Center

- Continue preparation of isolation area
- Initiative training of staff for proper PPE use

Developmental Disabilities Division

- Surveyed DD providers to better understand any changes they may have made to their operations that would affect availability of services to clients
- Offered updated guidance related to in-home delivery of services, case management practices, infection control and prevention in intermediate care facilities, and guidance on COVID-19 preparedness checklists

Vocational Rehabilitation

- Conducting individual check-ins with clients as employment situations continue to change
- VR counselors are helping connect clients to other resources (ex. UI) to help them navigate the COVID-related disruption

Council on Developmental Disabilities

- Continues to accept applications for mini grants up to \$1,000 each for time-limited projects to assist in filling gaps in services that people with developmental disabilities and families are experiencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant can be found on the website under grants, small innovative www.nd.gov/scdd.

Human Resources

- Compiling information regarding former DHS employees in the event additional team members are needed.
- Recruitment activities continue as we fill positions vital to service delivery.