

Welcome to the PPJS COVID – 19 Creating a New Normal

- During this presentation you will be automatically muted and we encourage you to enter the pin when you register. This webinar will be limited to 100 participants.
- Please be patient during the webinar, we will try our best to monitor and respond to questions.
- While there will be opportunities to engage in open conversations around best practices, we encourage you to submit questions/comments using the “Question” functionality located within the Go-To-Webinar panel.

Developing a Plan



Governor's Plan to Reopen Pennsylvania

<https://www.governor.pa.gov/process-to-reopen-pennsylvania/>

Pennsylvania plans to proceed with returning to work cautiously. Broad re-openings or re-openings that are not structured around ongoing social distancing, universal masking, or other public health guidance would likely result in a spike of cases and new stay-at-home and closure orders.

Throughout this process, the administration will have guidance in place to support best public health practices. This guidance will reinforce and build on existing worker and building safety orders.

Developing a Plan



Discussed in greater detail below, the administration will utilize a three-phase matrix to determine when counties within regions are ready to begin easing some restrictions on work, congregate settings, and social interactions.

The **red phase**, which currently applies to the whole state, has the sole purpose of minimizing the spread of COVID-19 through strict social distancing, non-life sustaining business, school closures, and building safety protocols.

[DHS Universal Masking of Healthcare Workers and Staff in Congregate Care Settings](#)

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Yellow phase:

Work & Congregate Setting Restrictions

- Telework Must Continue Where Feasible
- Businesses with In-Person Operations Must Follow Business and Building Safety Orders
- Child Care Open with worker and building safety orders
- Congregate Care and Prison Restrictions in Place
- Schools Remain Closed for In-Person Instruction
- All businesses must follow CDC and DOH guidance for social distancing and cleaning

Developing a Plan



Green phase:

Work & Congregate Setting Restrictions

- All Businesses Must Follow CDC and PA Department of Health Guidelines

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Congregate Care Facilities

On March 31, the Department of Human Services issued guidance for residential providers under the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services including Long-Term Structured Residences, Community Residential Rehabilitation Services, Residential Treatment Facilities, and Crisis Residences recommending all providers develop temporary modifications to their visitation policies that prohibit all non-employee visitors unless it is a medical necessity, required by court order, adult protective services or older adult protective services staff as outlined in guidance issued under applicable protective services laws. At the discretion of the facility director, additional exceptions may be made where a visit is deemed to be necessary. [This guidance will continue.](#)

CDC Guidance:

[Interim Guidance on Management of Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Correctional and Detention Facilities](#)

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Congregate Care Facilities

On April 4, the Department of Human Services temporarily suspended all transfers to state-run juvenile justice facilities. This step was taken to allow staff to create two ten-bed intake units to mitigate risk of spread at the state-run facilities. Youth awaiting transfer to the state-run juvenile justice system will be admitted to the intake unit on the same day and remain in the unit for 14 days until they are cleared for entry into their designated program. If any youth test positive for COVID-19 during this 14-day period, they will be moved into isolation and the youth who are in the intake unit will restart their 14 days in the unit to make sure that they do not develop symptoms of COVID-19. Youth in the intake unit will have access to a counselor, psychological and medical services, physical activity, and other individualized recreational activities. Social distancing will be enforced, and youth will be able to maintain contact with their family through phone calls, video conferencing, and letters. The previously issued [guidance will continue.](#)

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Congregate Care Facilities

On April 7, the Department of Human Services issued procedures that must be followed for admission of an individual to one of the department's state facilities. Requirements include individuals be screened for COVID-19 prior to admission to state operated psychiatric hospitals, ...Youth Development Centers or Youth Forestry Camps. Any individual who meets screening criteria for indication of infection but does not have documentation of a negative test result for COVID-19, may not be admitted. A medical clearance attestation from a physician within 72 hours prior to the requested admission date is acceptable for admission if the individual was screened with a negative result. If there was a positive screening, regardless of a COVID-19 test result, the individual must not be admitted until 7 days have passed since symptom onset, and 3 days (72 hours) after the resolution of fever without fever reducing medicines and improvement of other symptoms. If an individual has had a close contact with someone suspected to have, or diagnosed with, COVID-19, the individual should quarantine for 14 days from the last admission to a facility should not occur until after the 14-day quarantine is complete. [This guidance will continue.](#)

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K-12 Schools

On April 9, Governor Wolf and the Pennsylvania Department of Education announced that school buildings would be closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year. The Department of Education worked with Intermediate Units (IUs) and the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PATTAN) to develop guidance and evidence-based resources around continuity of education to ensure all schools provide continuity of education for all students in the most accessible and appropriate ways possible. Working with the General Assembly, the Governor signed Act 13 of 2020 to waive the School Code requirement for a minimum 180-day school term, an action that builds on the administration's earlier commitment that no district or school would be penalized for falling short of the 180-day school term requirement.

In addition, Pennsylvania sought and received approvals from the federal government to allow schools the option to distribute meals to children age 18 and under at no cost while schools are closed. Although not required, participating schools are strongly encouraged to continue distributing and/or delivering school meals during breaks.

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Community-based Services:

[CDC Steps to stay safe in the community](#)



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Communications with youth, staff, stakeholders:

Do you have adequate access to posters, informational handouts, etc to reinforce the need for ongoing care?

New COVID-19 Educational Materials Include:

[CDC Printable resources for communities/staff](#)

- [How to Safely Put On PPE Video](#)
- [How To Safely Take Off PPE Video](#)
- [How to Put On and Take Off PPE Fact Sheet](#)
- [How to Put On and Take Off PPE Poster](#)
- [PPE Illustrations](#)



Access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The Department of Health (DOH) has distributed COVID-19 GUIDANCE ON DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT.

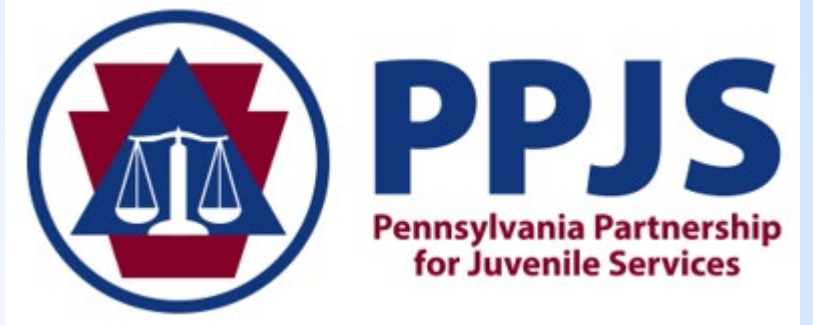
Within this guidance document DHS Recommends that agencies implement [strategies to optimize the supply of PPE and equipment.](#)

The DOH will distribute PPE to congregate care facilities who have an identified and investigated need.

The DOH has been inundated with requests for PPEs. As a method to assist in keeping the process flowing, each of the offices under the DHS umbrella was requested to process their licensed entities requests.

You will be sent the overarching guidance along with the questionnaire that will need to be completed by 3800 licensed facilities who need to request PPEs. The DHS point of contact for PPE requests is Kristina Harris at c-Kriharri@pa.gov.

Kristen Knouse will be sending this notification to all licensed congregate care settings today. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.



Keeping up with Staffing Requirements

Fingerprinting updates

Lehigh County - April 29 has about 50 people thus far, so we have 12 OPEN APPOINTMENTS 4230 Dorney Park Road Allentown, PA 18103

Mercer County (George Junior) May 1 (open to the public) still has about 20 OPEN APPOINTMENTS West Main Street Grove City, PA 16127

Allegheny County has been rescheduled at this time

Crawford County - Meadville May 6. 15487 State Highway 86 Meadville, PA 16333 at Bethesda Lutheran Services. (final details pending)

You will need a DHS service code to register online.

Future locations pending finalization of site details: State College, Scranton, Somerset. Identigo sites are starting to reopen.

DHS has shared this [map](#) that shows the fingerprinting sites across the commonwealth. Please call before visiting any of these sites to ensure they are open for regular business hours.

Dental, Vision, Hearing and Physical Appointments



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Ninety (90) days from the date Governor's restrictions lifted, Dental, Vision, Hearing and Physical expectations will need to be met.

DHS must yet determine at what "phase" restrictions are considered lifted.

Family and Stakeholder Engagement



What are your current virtual platform resources?

Do you have the infrastructure to support telecommunications with families, referral agencies, Courts?

Here is a link to some information about available internet resources for low income households that has been shared.

The National Digital Inclusion Alliance released a list of free and low-cost internet resources, at:

<https://www.digitalinclusion.org/free-low-cost-internet-plans/>

Internal operations:



Which staff have contacts with large numbers of your clients?

Some agencies that have experienced “community spread”, occurred with nursing and/or food services staff.

Does your agency operations have a plan to reduce direct contact with staff who may expose youth across units?

Does your agency plan address ways to limit exposure during family/stakeholder interaction?

Does your agency plan address ways to limit “community spread” when staff interact with others who may be at-risk or positive to COVID 19?

Best Practices: Employee Wellbeing



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What resources are in place to address employee well-being post COVID crisis?

Many dedicated staff have come to work risking exposure to themselves to ensure that youth basic and therapeutic needs are met.

But staff's family members are then also put at risk if the staff is asymptomatic.

Employers may wish to explore what post crisis emotional support (EAP, or other resources may be needed to support your long-term employee needs.

What support services may be needed in the event of a resurgence of COVID (2nd wave)?

Best Practices: Staff Training



Virtual staff training resources and independent study may be more relied upon.

Resources:

**Preparing for Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Influenza:
Free Online Training & Resources from RELIAS**

- [How to Prepare for Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and Influenza: Training & Resources](#)

Agencies may consider reading assignments, video learning, etc. to continue educating staff and residents.

Best Practices: Referral/Intake/Release practices



Supreme Court – extends general statewide declaration of judicial emergency through June 1, 2020. Beginning May 4, PA Courts shall be open to conduct court business, However, all In-Person access and proceedings shall be strictly limited.

Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

Proposed Questions to Residential Providers Regarding Established Protocols for Addressing the COVID-19 Pandemic

Does your facility have a COVID -19 Operational Response Plan or Protocol?

Courts may be interested in data: referrals, reviews, releases, etc

PCCD Assessment of Need



PCCD has distributed an assessment to providers/justice related agencies across the state. This is to assess immediate need related to COVID-19 so that it can help inform how we allocate the resources/funding as quickly as possible. Here is the link:

<https://www.pccd.pa.gov/criminaljustice/Pages/Coronavirus-Emergency-Relief-Fund-Survey.aspx>

Q and Sometimes A



While this continues to be an evolving process for all, we stand ready to help the field to the best of our ability.

If you have specific questions, please do not hesitate to contact Wayne Bear, PPJS Executive Director

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