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PLAN/NJ's COVID-19 Response and Resources for Families of People with Disabilities **Updated 5.4.20**

PLAN/NJ COVID-19 Response We recommend that families of people with disabilities actively protect themselves and their loved ones during this pandemic by following all best health practices being recommended by the Centers for Disease Control. This is a rapidly changing situation and we want to assure you that nothing is more important to us than the safety of our clients, staff and families. If there are concerns, please do not hesitate to call our office at 908-575-8300 ext. 2.

The PLAN/NJ Board of Directors and staff pledge to continue following these business procedures:

- Monitor the pandemic and its current and potential effects on our clients and community
- Make swift decisions on their behalf to ensure their important needs are met
- Follow all recommendations for “essential businesses” that are provided by health and governmental authorities
- Rapidly increase use of digital tools that will enable us to oversee individuals’ safety and health

For Guardianship, Home-Visit Monitoring and Advocacy clients, we continue to

- Survey each group home, health facility and partner organization to ensure they are following all best practices
- Collaborate across service sectors to plan for the best protections that will assure our clients and families can maintain their health and well-being
- Monitor directives and recommendations provided by the Centers for Disease Control, the New Jersey Department of Health, the office of the Governor of New Jersey, the Division of Developmental Disabilities, among others.

Additional COVID-19 Resources for Families of People with Disabilities

- Critical Issues Facing New Jersey Residents with Disabilities from Disability Rights New Jersey: <https://www.drnj-covid.org/>
- Murphy Administration Takes Action to Support Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities during the COVID-19 Pandemic: <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/news/pressreleases/2020/approved/20200429b.html>
- Hospital Visitation Rights: The NJ Department of Health (DOH) issued the hospital visitation policy for people with disabilities effective April 25, 2020. DOH now considers a designated support person essential to patient care for people with disabilities. As a result, hospitals must allow a

designated support person to be with the individual during hospitalization. Read the Policy here: <https://njcdd.org/wp-content/uploads/Visitor-Policy.pdf>

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, anyone with an intellectual disability, moderate to severe developmental delay, muscular dystrophy or brain disorders may also be more susceptible to severe illness from COVID-19. Many experts say that families should check with their care providers to ensure the guidelines are being followed. Read the blog post here: <https://njcdd.org/the-covid-19-pandemic-disproportionately-impacts-people-with-disabilities/>
- More COVID-19 related updates from the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities: https://marketingsuite.verticalresponse.com/emails/45079976751055?social_account_id=153967881367542&sk=aAIB2JgpjBLZ1WVQANYF5FX2cDzb1Z3ZxD1sFKraHbQ=/aHR0cDovL21hcmtldGluZ3N1aXRILnZlcnRpY2FscmVzcG9uc2UuY29tL2VtYWlscy80NTA3OTk3Njc1MTA1NT9zb2NpYWxfYWVudF9pZD0xNTM5Njc4ODEzNjc1NDI=/jMkEUMP1wrwMj8FRg9JVeQ==
- The Social Security Administration: Regarding the impact of economic impact payments on medicaid eligibility, per the Social Security Administration's statement dated April 3, 2020, SSA will not consider economic impact payments as income for SSI recipients, and the payments are excluded from resources for 12 months. Please see the complete statement here: <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm979>
- Here is a useful link from the Centers for Disease Control with special considerations for individuals with disabilities and those living in long-term care facilities: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html#who-is-higher-risk>
- And a wonderful 'plain language' resource developed by and for people with disabilities to answer essential questions about COVID-19 and how to stay safe: <https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Plain-Language-Information-on-Coronavirus-accessible-.pdf>
- The Disability Scoop: <https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/03/17/coronavirus-brings-added-worries-disabilities/27989/>