



Larry Hogan Governor · Rowd K. Rutherford Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall Secretary

Dear DDA Provider Community:

The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) is working closely with our Medicaid partners, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Public Health Services and the Department of Disabilities related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The DDA is committed to remaining flexible and responsive during this evolving situation and is taking positive action to help guard the health of people with developmental disabilities, direct support staff and our provider community while maintaining the high level of service that our individuals, families and partners depend upon.

The DDA staff are working diligently to respond to CMS questions about the changes in Appendix K to allow greater flexibility in this new COVID reality. The DDA staff is also drafting guidance on how the items will be implemented once CMS approves the Appendix K.

Locally, the DDA Regional Offices have been assisting service providers to ensure everyone has up to date guidance from national, state, and local experts. Recently, the Regional Offices received a shipment of supplies that have been distributed to providers. The disbursement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) by the DDA was based on need, utilization of other resources, and continued availability.

The DDA leadership is also working closely with our Department leadership to ensure that you as a provider have the resources that you need to get through this pandemic. The Maryland Department of Health, in coordination with the Maryland National Guard and other local partners, has assembled “go-teams” to provide support to providers during outbreaks in Congregate Settings/Group Homes. These teams can help providers assess current supplies, staffing and infection control practices to help you best utilize the resources you already have available. Based on the “go-teams” recommendations and follow-up from test teams, a care delivery team may be provided for short-term crisis interventions.

To request a “go-team”, contact your local health department and local emergency agency. These agencies will assess your organization’s current situation and connect you with local resources and the “go-teams” as needed. Please remember that you can also request PPE from the local health department at <https://health.maryland.gov/Pages/departments.ASPX>

and if they cannot meet the request contact your local emergency agency at <https://mema.maryland.gov/Pages/Local-EOC.aspx>.

These are unusual times, requiring patience and understanding. We appreciate your partnership, patience and trust as we overcome this COVID-19 pandemic together!