

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SUPPORTS DIVISION NEWSLETTER

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COVID-19 Status Report

Submitted by Marc Kolman, Deputy Director

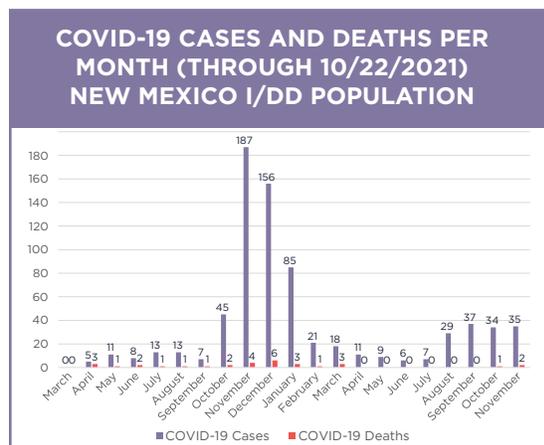
This article gives an update on the number of infections and deaths due to COVID in New Mexico’s Home and Community Based waiver population.

COVID Cases and Deaths

The following graph shows the number of confirmed cases and deaths due to COVID among those served in New Mexico’s Home and Community Based waivers (DD, Medically Fragile, Mi Via and Supports waivers). The data is current through November 22, 2021. There has been a total of 737 confirmed cases of COVID in New Mexico’s HCBS population and a total of 31 deaths. Note there were 106 cases

and 3 deaths in the last quarter (September through November) representing a substantial increase since the stabilization of cases during the period of April through July 2021.

The following tables show the number of confirmed cases of COVID by Region, Type of Waiver, and Type of Services.



Confirmed COVID-19 Positive	737
Confirmed COVID-19 Deaths	31

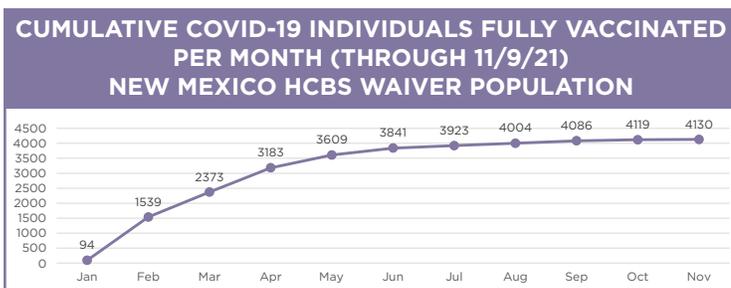
Metro	329
NERO	58
NWRO	104
SERO	118
SWRO	128
Grand Total	737

DD Waiver	535
Medically Fragile Waiver	18
Mi Via Waiver	177
Supports Waiver	3
State General Funded Services	4
Grand Total	737

COVID Vaccinations

The following graph shows the cumulative number of individuals fully vaccinated among those served in New Mexico's Home and Community Based waivers (DD, Medically Fragile, Mi Via and Supports waivers). This is current through November 9, 2021 and represents two doses of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or a single dose of the J&J vaccine. This does not include booster doses.

For additional detailed information on COVID cases and vaccinations in New Mexico's population, see <https://cv.nmhealth.org/>. Epidemiology reports showing geographic trends, demographics, health and social characteristics, and variants of concern can be found by clicking on the link to Medical & Scientific reports at the top of the page.



COVID-19 CASES BY TYPE OF SERVICE (DD WAIVER ONLY)	
Case Management only	31
Community Integrated Employment and Customized Community Supports	21
Customized In-Home Supports	36
Day Services Only	1
Family Living	145
Intensive Medical Living	3
Respite Only	5
Supported Living	294
Other including Mi Via and SW	201
Grand Total	737

In-Person Monitoring Visits and In-Person Training Effective January 1, 2022

Submitted by Scott Doan, Deputy Director and Marc Kolman, Deputy Director

DDSD issued a memorandum on November 15, 2021 stating the following:

In Person Monitoring Visits:

Effective January 1st, 2022; all DD Waiver Case Managers, Mi Via Waiver Consultants, Supports Waiver Community Support Coordinators, Medically Fragile Waiver Case Managers, Agency Service Coordinators and Supervisors, to include State General Fund programs must resume in person visits as required by each program. In-person monitoring is an important element of the overall service system and is critical for health and safety of participants in Waiver and State General Fund services.

Agencies are responsible for ensuring face to face, in person visits according to the frequency established by the specific Waiver Service Standards. This means visits required monthly must be started in person by January 2022; visits required quarterly must be started in person by March of 2022; and visits required every other month must be started in person by January 2022. If your agency provides services on Tribal lands, please be aware of additional or different requirements based on Tribal jurisdiction. Resuming in-person visits will not apply if

tribal borders are closed. Tribal orders supersede requirements in this memo.

Please note, during the month of December 2021, DDSD will allow in person monitoring visits and/or remote monitoring visits at the preference of the individual and/or guardian. The month of December will serve as a "transition" month to return to exclusively in person visits effective January 1, 2022. If the individual and/or guardian elect to continue with remote monitoring visit(s) during the month of December, an exception approval from DDSD is not necessary or required.

Training:

The DDSD Training Unit is announcing that effective January 1, 2022, certified agency trainers may once again conduct DDSD core/classroom trainings in-person. We want to encourage remote on-line trainings/livestreaming trainings when possible.

The complete memo is available at:

<https://www.nmhealth.org/publication/view/general/7063/>.

Research on COVID and Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

Submitted by Marc Kolman, Deputy Director

There are lots of articles summarizing research on COVID-19 and People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. I did a search using Google Scholar and summarized a few articles here.

Exploring the Impact of COVID-19 on Families of Children with Developmental Disabilities: A Community-Based Formative Study

Pediatrics & Child Health, Volume 26, Issue Supplement 1, October 2021

https://academic.oup.com/pch/article/26/Supplement_1/e7/6414089?login=true

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every facet of society but has been particularly disastrous for families of children with developmental disabilities (DD) living on the margins. The unprecedented repercussions of COVID-19, including quarantine, social distancing, and service restrictions, continue to disproportionately impact these families. Families of children with DD face extraordinary barriers to care, which may be further compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. This study demonstrates the value of community-informed design, particularly in the setting of the COVID-19 pandemic. To deliver truly patient-centered services during the pandemic, there is an urgent need for responsive programming that is built with patients, for patients.

Daily Life Experiences of Families of People with Disabilities During COVID-19 Pandemic

Developmental Disabilities Network Journal, Vol 2, Issue 1, October 2021

<https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1037&context=ddnj>

For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families, COVID-19 has introduced additional challenges including significant disruptions to daily life and increased risk in accessing services and

supports. Understanding how families are adapting and navigating through the crisis is critical to inform ongoing supports as the pandemic continues and beyond as there will likely be ongoing changes in service and support delivery both directly and indirectly related to COVID-19. This study asked families about their experiences during COVID-19. Families and caregivers described challenges that affected their daily life. Many people said they needed more behavioral or emotional supports. Many people said they had trouble accessing supports they needed. Most family members said there were fewer opportunities for their children to make decisions. This paper includes ideas for how services and supports can be improved.

Advance Care Planning Within Individualized Care Plans: A Component of Emergency Preparedness

Developmental Disabilities Network Journal, Vol 2, Issue 1, October 2021

<https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/ddnj/vol2/iss1/3/>

Federally-legislated Medicaid requirements for recipients with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD) to have a person-centered plan (PCP) does not specifically require that advanced care plans (ACP) be a component of the plan. However, COVID-19 has provided a salient reminder of the importance of incorporating ACP within the PCP for people who have IDD. People with a disability who receive services from the government for their disability must have a written plan about their life. Plans do not need to be part of this written plan. However, with the COVID-19 pandemic we see more emergencies that cause big changes to the lives of people with disabilities. During big events like this it can be helpful to have plans written down. In this paper, we look at what is known about planning for the future for adults with disabilities. We make suggestions to improve these plans so people with disabilities and their caregivers feel more prepared during a crisis.

Mi Via Advisory Committee Announcement

Submitted by Elaine Hill, Mi Via Program Coordinator



The Mi Via Advisory Committee is open for nominations of members! We have seats available for Participants and or Family members. If you are interested, please email Elaine.Hill@state.nm.us to request a Nomination Form.

Thank you!

Medically Fragile Waiver Renewed

Submitted by Iris Clevenger, RN

Did you hear the news? The Medically Fragile Waiver (MFW) was renewed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for another 5 years. The renewal is continuous from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2026.

The Medically Fragile Waiver serves individuals who have been determined to have both a medically fragile condition and a developmental disability or risk for DD. It provides support to families by providing assistance to individuals to remain being cared for in their home. It is the oldest (established in 1985) and the smallest waiver managed by DDSD.

The waiver renewal approved a continuation of the established services and added new services to help families care for their loved one at home. The waiver services include nursing, home health aide, nurse case management, behavioral health consultation, nutritional counseling, occupational therapy, physical therapy speech therapy, respite, specialized medical equipment and environmental modifications.

The new services are:

- Vehicle modification
- Customized community supports (day program)
- Massage therapy
- Individual goods and services.

If you are a service provider that would like to add the Medically Fragile Waiver to your agreement or would like to become a MFW provider, please contact Tammy Barth, Provider Enrollment Manager, at

Tammy.Barth@state.nm.us.

If you would like more information regarding the Medically Fragile Waiver or would like assistance in an application for the waiver, you may contact Iris Clevenger RN, MFW Manager, at Iris.Clevenger@state.nm.us or (505) 841-2913.

DDW Allocations and Virtual Allocation Fairs

Submitted by Teresa Larson, Intake & Eligibility Bureau Chief

The Intake & Eligibility Bureau (IEB) is excited to be working on filling 400 DD/Mi Via Waiver allocation slots for FY22! These 400 allocation slots are in addition to the 80 attrition allocation slots that have already been filled. The preparation for the additional 400 allocations is well underway and the Letters of Interest (LOI) and Primary Freedom of Choice (PFOC) documents are scheduled to be mailed on Monday, November 22, 2021. The IEB staff have been busy reconnecting with potential recipients of these allocations. Sometimes this is referred to as "Cleaning up the Wait List," but that is a bit misleading. This process should be referred to as regular Wait List maintenance activities that the IEB staff conduct daily. Everyone on the Wait List completed the DD Waiver application process at some point and were determined to meet the definition of an individual with a developmental disability. The individuals who are receiving this group of allocations registered for the DD Waiver prior to April 2010. IEB staff will do our due diligence to ensure those individuals who have been waiting for so long, receive their allocation opportunity.

Those individuals who receive the LOI/PFOC are invited to attend one of the virtual Allocation Fairs scheduled between November 29th and December 23rd. These Allocation Fairs will be held via Zoom in both English and Spanish according to the schedule below. Allocation letters will include information about how to participate in the Allocation Fairs.

In English	Tuesdays 10:00 to 11:00 am	Thursdays 5:30 to 6:30 pm
In Spanish	Mondays 10:00 to 11:00 am	Wednesdays 5:30 to 6:30 pm

Intake & Eligibility is always busy; however, filling allocation slots and getting individuals into the services they so desperately need, is the busiest and best time of the year. We hope our letters bring new hope and joy to all the recipients. Happy Thanksgiving from the Intake & Eligibility Bureau!

Congratulations to NM's Newest CESP's!

Submitted by Casey Stone-Romero, DDS Community Inclusion Manager



APSE, the Association of People Supporting Employment First created the first national certification program for employment support professionals called the Certified Employment Support Professional™ or CESP™ certification. The CESP™ program is the first in the nation to create national guidelines to validate and support the training currently provided in the field.

Unlike training programs that provide a certificate of completion, the CESP™ certification sets a standard of knowledge and distinguishes employment support professionals who have shown they have the skill and competence to perform the requirements of the job. The CESP™ exam seeks to define the benchmarks for knowledge and competency in the field in the following areas: 1) Application of Core Values and Principles to Practice & Legislation and Funding; 2) Individualized Assessment and Employment/Career Planning; 3) Community Research and Job Development; 4) Workplace and Related Supports and 5) Ongoing Supports.

Partners for Employment (PFE), a collaboration between UNM/CDD, DDS and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) assists with scholarships to cover the cost of the test for those who have completed the College of Employment Supports training.

The following professionals passed the exam:

Denise Dumesnil	Teresa Casey
David Palenschat	Jessica Pascale
Leslie Razo	Richard Harrid
Eric Fitzgerald	Winton Wood
Kyle Henderson	Samia Fercha-Killmar
Mark Pavlik	Marilynn Holtsoi
Jennifer Saavedra	Robyn Collum

Congratulations to these leaders in Supported Employment! New Mexico now has 76 CESP's™ statewide. For more information about the ASPE CESP™ certification, please visit www.apse.org. If you are interested in taking the exam, please contact Casey Stone-Romero at Casey.Stone-Romero@state.nm.us or visit the Partners for Employment website, <https://unmhealth.org/services/development-disabilities/programs/other-disability-programs/partners-for-employment/>.

2021 NMDOH Specialty Seating Clinic Wheelchair Seating and Positioning Conference

Submitted by Specialty Seating Clinic Staff: Scott Hubbard, Mary Beth Schubauer, Jason Lavy, Felix Leon

On October 12 and 22, 2021, the NMDOH Specialty Seating Clinic presented its annual Wheelchair Mobility and Positioning Conference. Due to Covid-19, the conference was conducted virtually for the first time. 100 Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Nurses, and Case Managers from around New Mexico had the chance to expand their knowledge on the complexities of

wheelchair fit and function. Eight different courses were offered over two days with some of the most qualified and experienced instructors in the country. The conference was very well received with over 90% of attendees reporting that they would participate again next year. The Specialty Seating Clinic is looking forward to a return to an in-person educational conference in Fall of 2022.

Mi Via Waiver and Supports Waiver Stakeholders Minimum Wage Rate Study

Submitted by Jennifer Rodriguez, Deputy Director

The Public Consulting Group (PCG) is contracting with the Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) and the Human Services Department (HSD) to ensure rates are in line with requirements for New Mexico Minimum Wage laws. This will also encompass rates that are impacted by paid sick leave laws on the MiVia self-directed Waiver, and the Supports Waiver. This project is targeted for Mi Via and Supports Waiver rates that involve direct support personnel. This is not a comprehensive rate study.

DDSD is seeking rate recommendations that consider the following:

1. State minimum wage rate increases
2. City and county minimum wages for all New Mexico jurisdictions
3. Paid time off requirements
4. Supports Waiver Assistive Technology Purchasing Agency Rate
5. Mi Via Waiver Individual Budgetary Allotment
6. Supports Waiver \$10,000.00 budget

Rates that will be reviewed include:

Supports Waiver

Customized Community Supports Individual Customized Community Supports Group Employment

Personal Care Services Respite

Assistive Technology

Mi Via Waiver

Homemaker/Direct Support Community Direct Support Employment Supports Customized Community Group Supports Respite Standard

Project Overview 10/1-12/31



This project will include stakeholder engagement participation by way of a survey, focus groups and larger stakeholder forums, specific to the waivers and rates being looked at. Stay tuned for more information and ways to be involved.

Congratulations to NM's Newest ACRE Certificate Recipients!

Submitted by Casey Stone-Romero, Community Inclusion Manager

Partners for Employment, a collaborative project between UNM/CDD, DDS, and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), is pleased to announce the following professionals are now ACRE Certified. The ACRE (Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators) Certificate is a nationally recognized certificate that never expires. For more information on ACRE, please visit their website at Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators (acreducators.org).

New Mexico now has 188 individuals who are ACRE certified. Partners for Employment offers scholarships to those who have completed the College of Employment Supports training to obtain their ACRE certificate. Having this certificate shows that the recipient has completed the required competency-based training and assignments which cover many of the skills and knowledge essential to providing quality person-centered services to individuals with disabilities. If you are interested in the ACRE

Certificate, College of Employment Services or any of the other many training and networking opportunities available through Partners for Employment please visit their website at <https://unmhealth.org/services/development-disabilities/programs/other-disability-programs/partners-for-employment/> or contact Casey Stone-Romero at Casey.Stone-Romero@state.nm.us



CONGRATULATIONS!!!



Robyn Collom
Claressa Stamps
Megan Allen
Paulette Cummins
Kelly Gwartney
Dayle BadWarrior
Terry Lowe
Samantha Conover
Comien Cheadle
Jennifer Cordasco
Richard Harrid
Kim LaDuca
Andrew McDonald
Alicia Pacheco
Angelica Segura
Rachel Sutherlin
Lorena Villalovos
Darin Wright
Ben DeLeon
Leonard Lucero
Crystal Pena

Kevin Phillips
Samantha Michael
Josephine Herrera-Miller
Britney Davis
Michael Hart
Ashlee Tafoya
Brianna Lopez
Mary Britt
Audrey Cheney
Maxine Cordova
Kyle Henderson
Keith Maes
Elizabeth Moore
Krystal Perea
Denise Sierra
Rebecca Trujillo
Melissa Wassana
Alexis Argumedo
Charlotte Eisenbise
Brittany Nash
Steve Scarton

Susie Gutierrez
Holly Bird
Adam Cruz
Alix Dean
Linda Lovato
Sheilla Allen
Alexandrea Rios
Carmen Cerny
Rebecca Cobos
Stephanie Duran
Crystal Hicks
Mark Mascaro
Alisha Mora
Johnny Sanchez
Nicole Starke
Rita Turner
Chris Woods
Donna Crockett
Konnie Kanmore
Jessica Pascale
Cristin Stewart

ANCOR DSP of the Year Award Winner

Submitted by Marc Kolman, Deputy Director

Congratulations to Veronica Hopkins - State DSP of the Year Award Winner for New Mexico. In June 2021, ANCOR (American Network of Community Options and Resources) awarded the State DSP of the Year to Veronica Hopkins of Dungarvin, NM.

From Veronica's nomination ...

Veronica is a hard worker and a great staff member. She is not afraid to be a leader and is always willing to go the extra mile for what is best for the individuals.

Throughout her career, Veronica has been trained on Person Centered Planning, and has applied these principles as verified by her long-term commitment and multiple successes with all individuals she has served (approximately 28 individuals throughout her 15-year career). One individual Veronica worked with was very violent. This person had a goal to live on her own. Veronica worked with the individual, showing her that she didn't have to deal with things by reacting negatively. Veronica showed her ways to calm down and think about what was going on and then deal with the problems.

Veronica Hopkins



When dealing with individuals Veronica is always thinking outside the box. Realizing that each individual is different and there are different strategies & approaches for the same behavior with each separate individual.

Congratulations to Veronica!!!!

ACQ Membership is Full!

Submitted by Wendy Corry, ACQ Administrator

The ACQ Executive Committee is very excited to announce that the ACQ membership is completely full (pending appointment by the Governor's Office)! The ACQ which is a collaboration of self-advocates, providers, family members, advocacy agencies, state agencies, etc. is comprised of a phenomenal group of people who are tireless advocates and passionate about the quality of life of people with disabilities. The ACQ Executive Committee is incredibly grateful for the dedication and hard work of the members and all the interested parties who join us for our bi-monthly meetings.

Congratulations to our new ACQ Members who have been appointed by the Governor's Office at the recommendation of the ACQ: Christina Barden- Provider, Stevie Bass- Mi Via Advisory Council, Cynthia Chavez-Parent, Peter Crespin- Provider, Crystal Garcia- Tony's All-Stars, Jessica Gutierrez- Provider, Elisheva Levin- Self Advocate, Peggy O'Neill- provider, Judy Sena- Self-Advocate, April Spaulding- Interagency Coordinating Council and Angelique Tafoya- Provider.

We are also sad to announce the resignation of Ginny Lynch, (ACQ Exec. Comm. member) and Jenni Bartz (representative for the Medically Fragile Family Advisory Board). We thank them both for their enthusiastic advocacy and great positive energy.

The ACQ membership recently voted to recommend four amazing candidates to fill the remaining membership positions. These candidates have now been recommended to the Governor's Office for appointment to the ACQ membership.

The ACQ meetings are open, virtual meetings and everyone is welcome. We meet the second Thursday every other month at 9:00 am. Our next meeting is Thursday December 9, 2021. If you would like more information about the ACQ or would like to receive invitations to these meetings, please contact the ACQ Administrator, Wendy Corry at wendy@corryconsulting.com.

E-Blasts

Submitted by Tammy Barth, Provider Enrollment Manager

EVV and Transition Weekly Newsletter - Sent 8/25/2021
DDSD Clarification Memo - Sent 8/26/2021
CDC Press Release: CDC launches COVID-19 resources for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities - Sent 9/1/2021
Distribution for 9-1-2021 - Sent 9/1/2021
DDSD Documents for Distribution - Sent 9/15/2021
Beyond ABCs Flyer - Sent 9/20/2021
Testimony Flyer - September 22, 2021 - Sent 9/22/2021
EVV and Transition Weekly Newsletter - Sent 9/22/2021
Forward@14 Flyer Nov 2021 - Sent 9/27/2021
EVV and Transition Weekly Newsletter 9.29.21 - Sent 9/29/2021
DDSD Documents - Sent 10/4/2021
New DDSD Deputy Director - Sent 10/4/2021
HHS COVID-19 Provider Relief Funding Application Now Open - Sent 10/5/2021
Re-Issue of DDSD Numbered Memo for DD and Supports Waiver Providers of Electronic Visit Verification - Sent 10/5/2021
You're Invited: NDEAM Virtual Celebration, October 20 - Sent 10/6/2021
CARMP Draft and Therap Trainings in November - 10/6/2021
EVV and Transition Newsletter - Sent 10/6/2021

2021 Mobility and Positioning Conference - Sent 10/7/2021
EVV and Transition Newsletter - Sent 10/3/2021
DDSD Document Distribution - Sent 10/15/2021
EVV and Transition Newsletter - Sent 10/20/2021
PCG Communication - Sent 10/26/2021
EVV and Transition Weekly Newsletter - Sent 10/27/2021
PCG Communication - Sent 10/2//2021
Announcement of Regional Office Bureau Chief - Sent 10/29/2021
Release of Memos - Sent 11/1/2021
EVV and Transition Weekly Newsletter - Sent 11/3/2021
DDSD Document Distribution - Sent 11/3/2021
Workshop: DD Waiver Service Standards Updates - Sent 11/4/2021
Updated Provider Agenda for Metro Regional Office Meeting - Sent 11/19/2021
LGBTQIA+ Self Advocacy Training - Sent 11/9/2021
EVV and Transition Newsletter - Sent 11/10/2021
DDSD Document Distribution - Sent 11/15/2021
PFE Wise Training and PFE Supported Employment Local Leaders Meeting Flyers - Sent 11/15/2021
EVV and Transition Newsletter - Sent 11/17/2021

New Hires & Retirements

New Hires:

Lizette Lujan, Social & Community Service Coordinator-O, Santa Fe, started 9/18/21
Tiffany Morris, Social & Community Service Coordinator-O, Albuquerque, started 9/18/21
Aaron Joplin, Social & Community Service Coordinator-O, Gallup NWRO, started 10/30/21
Mary "Nettie" DeBerry, Registered Nurse-Advanced, Albuquerque, started 10/30/21
Denise Herrera, Social & Community Service Coordinator-O, Albuquerque, started 11/13/21
Crystal Vigil, Legal Support Worker, AO-A, Albuquerque, started 11/13/21

Retirements:

Tamara Peterson, Registered Nurse-Advanced, Gallup NWRO office, retiring 12/31/21

Promotions:

Jennifer Rodriguez, DDSD Deputy Director, GEN 1, Santa Fe, Started 10/2/21
Angie Brooks, Regional Office Bureau Chief, Las Cruces SWRO, started 10/30/21

About Us

The New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Supports Division is located at
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DDSD NEWSLETTER STAFF

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If you would like to write an article for the next issue of the DDSD Newsletter, have suggestions or comments, please contact Marc Kolman, DDSD Newsletter

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