

**Date:** November 18, 2020

**To:** All DD Waiver, Mi Via Waiver, Medically Fragile Waiver, Supports Waiver, State General Fund Providers and Stakeholders

**From:** Scott Doan, Deputy Director  
Developmental Disabilities Supports Division



**Through:** Jason Cornwell, Acting Deputy Cabinet Secretary  
New Mexico Department of Health



**Subject: DDSD COVID-19 Status Update**

As we all know, New Mexico continues to see a significant increase in COVID-19 positive cases across the state. During the month of November, COVID-19 positive cases within our service delivery system continues to increase by unprecedented numbers since the beginning of the pandemic. To date, the month of November is the highest month on record for COVID-19 positive cases, surpassing our previous high in October.

DDSD COVID-19 positive results for individuals receiving DD Waiver, Mi Via Waiver, Medically Fragile Waiver, Supports Waiver, and State General Fund services through November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020:

	Number of individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 in October 2020	Number of individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 in November 2020	Overall total number of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19	COVID-19 Related Deaths
DD Waiver	33	48	121	12
Mi Via Waiver	4	11	22	1
Medically Fragile Waiver	2	5	7	1
Supports Waiver	0	0	0	0
State General Fund	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>14</b>

As per the Public Health Order effective November 19<sup>th</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (please see attached) ***“all New Mexicans should be staying in their homes for all but the most essential activities and services. This is especially true now, when this State is experiencing an unprecedented surge in new cases and hospitals are approaching or exceeding their capacity. When New Mexicans are not in their homes, they must strictly adhere to social distancing protocols and wear face coverings to minimize risks. These sacrifices are the best contribution that each of us can individually make to protect the health and wellbeing of our fellow citizens and the State as a whole.”***

The newly issued Public Health Order also states *“Mass gathering” means any public gathering, private gathering, organized event, ceremony, parade, funeral, or any other grouping that brings together more than five (5) individuals in a single room or connected space, confined outdoor space, or open outdoor space. “Mass gatherings” also includes coordinated events in which individuals gather in ten (10) or more vehicles. “Mass gathering” does not include the presence of more than five (5) individuals where those individuals regularly reside.*

In line with the Governor’s orders, DDS is asking that all direct service providers, vendors, therapists, behavior support consultants, case managers, consultants, community support coordinators, families, guardians, etc., and individuals receiving services to **heed the Governor’s orders to absolutely remain at home except for only those trips that are most essential for health, safety and welfare. This also means limiting travel, limiting all face-to-face visits, and limiting person-to-person contact to only what is necessary for your health, safety, and welfare.**

With respect to the Thanksgiving Holiday on November 26<sup>th</sup>, DDS is requesting that all family members, guardians, and individuals adhere to the Governor’s Stay at Home Orders. This includes not hosting private gatherings bringing together more than five (5) individuals (such as family and friends) in a setting to celebrate the holiday (as a reminder, this does not include the presence of more than five (5) individuals where the individual currently resides). DDS understands the importance and value of spending time together as friends and family. DDS also understands the intent and purpose of the Public Health Order, which is to protect all New Mexicans from the virus. Rather than host or invite family and friends to in person Thanksgiving gatherings, DDS is asking that all family members, guardians, individuals in service, and Direct Support Provider agencies to utilize remote technology to stay connected over the Thanksgiving holiday and during these most difficult times.

It is important that we all work together to slow the spread of the virus, to support each other, to protect each other, and to protect ourselves. **Please Stay Home and Stay Safe!!!** Thank you.

- Resource Website: <https://nmhealth.org/about/ddsd/diro/ddcv/>
- Should I be Tested? <https://cv.nmhealth.org/should-i-get-tested/>
- Test Portal: <https://cvresults.nmhealth.org/>
- HSD Portal Page: <https://nmmedicaid.portal.conduent.com/static/covid.htm>
- New Mexico Crisis Line 1-855-NMCRISIS **1-855-662-7474**.
- New Mexico Healthcare Worker and First Responder Support Line **1-855-507-5509**
- Report a Public Health Order Violation <https://www.newmexico.gov/2020/03/25/how-to-report-non-compliance-within-a-business-a-violation-of-the-mass-gatherings-ban-or-other-violations-of-the-public-order/>
- Frequently Asked Questions <https://cv.nmhealth.org/public-health-orders-and-executive-orders/frequently-asked-questions/>
- Explainer of Essential Business <https://cv.nmhealth.org/public-health-orders-and-executive-orders/essential-business-details/>