



3/13/2020

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Dear Families:

Today our President declared a National Emergency due to the continuing concern over coronavirus (COVID-19). As the situation rapidly evolves, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCBDD) will continue to update with the best information they have and the steps they are taking to ensure continued support, and the health and safety of Ohioans with developmental disabilities.

In this critical time, we will all be required to work collaboratively, operate differently, and be proactive to limit the spread of COVID-19. DODD has set up a dedicated [web page](#) for department communications and links to helpful resources that will advise people with disabilities, their families, service providers, county boards, and the community at large.

The department is preparing for scenarios that might include quarantine or isolation measures to limit community spread. **We have made the decision to restrict visitor access and to stop off-campus day services.** All deliveries will be made to the garage of the home and will be received there once the delivery person has left. Staff will be assessed when they arrive to the garage for symptoms of COVID-19. If someone is showing symptoms, they will not be able to work. We understand that this is a very upsetting time for many of our individuals, staff and families. However, we must insist to protect those people we love that no visitors may enter the homes, including family. This is a safeguard that has been instituted in Nursing Homes already.

All providers are taking steps to ensure safety through visitation restrictions, temporary stops to day services and community outings, and other preventative measures. Providers, county boards, and families need to make sensible judgments to focus on the health and safety of people with developmental disabilities. We understand the difficult situation in which this places providers and families. We must all do what we can to ensure a continuity of those supports and to take steps to prevent further spread of COVID-19.

For specific questions about COVID-19 and additional information and resources, we urge you to use the Ohio Department of Health's call center. Call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634), or visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov). ODH call center staff include licensed nurses and experts. They will be available to answer questions and provide accurate information.

As we work through this together, we want to thank you for your patience and collaboration. We have compassion for situations and hardships but join you in a shared responsibility to save lives. Together, we will be proactive and make decisions to best protect and support Ohioans with developmental disabilities, their families, and the professionals in our system.

Sincerely,

Andrew Kruse

Associate Director of Oakleaf & ICF Administrator  
216-302-8774

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10011 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44106 • 216-791-8363 • [www.ucpcleveland.org](http://www.ucpcleveland.org)