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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

April 27, 2020

Q- Is OPWDD disclosing the number of people that Care Coordination agencies support that are confirmed by a test to be positive?

A- Care Design NY and all the Care Coordination Organizations have been working with provider organizations and family groups to advocate for more testing and transparent data. Care Design NY will update the Members and Families when we have this data to share.

Q- What can Direct Support Professional (DSP) staff do about obtaining health insurance?

A- DSPs who have been laid off can apply for coverage through a qualified health plan on the New York State of Health website: <https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov/>. Depending on the person's income, they may be eligible for Medicaid coverage. Information can also be obtained from New York State of Health.

Q- What is the effect of the stimulus check on SSDI, Medicaid, and other benefits?

A- The stimulus check has no impact to SSI, SSDI, Medicaid, or SNAP payments. These benefits are not considered income and are exempt from resources for 12 months.

Q- If I claim my child on my tax return as a dependent since he lives in my house and he receives SSI, is he eligible for the \$1200 stimulus payment?

A- No one that is claimed as a dependent by anyone else will get the payment. If the person that is claimed as a dependent is under 17 years old, the person that claims them is eligible for an additional \$500 payment (for each dependent under 17 years old).

Q- Can a family member visit a group home if they have PPE?

A- Unfortunately, the OPWDD guidance does not permit for this to occur at this time.

Q- Can Members supported by a residential program be taken out for car rides or walks in the park?

A- We do not have a timeframe of when out of the community events will begin. Walks outside and car rides, if social distancing can be ensured, should be an option but that might also depend on the needs of those in the residence and the staffing resources.

Q- Where can I access the relaxation techniques described in an online meeting?

A- Headspace is science-based meditation and mindfulness organization. They have collaborated with New York State to create, A NY state of mind. It is a website with videos and techniques to help and reduce stress. While the general Headspace app is not free, there is no charge for access to this website: <https://www.headspace.com/ny>

Q- Is there guidance given to providers regarding Members who went home from a residential setting?

A- Please [click here](#) the guidance sent to providers for extended home visits.

Q- Is there advocacy occurring for testing for residential settings for Members?

A- At any time, all individuals were able to work with their primary care physician and care manager about testing. People were testing previously only if they met criteria, but that no longer applies

Q- Where can Members and Families obtain Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for their loved one or Support Staff?

A- Please check with your Care Manager for information on your individual circumstances. The Care Manager can work with your team to assist in this area.

Q- If a Direct Support Staff tests positive (hypothetically), then all of the members supported in the house might be infected, but the Members and their families wouldn't know unless they were tested. It would be great to have contact testing. Is this a possibility?

A- OPWDD is working on a protocol to use for testing at the residences, but access to testing materials is still a great challenge. Please [click here](#) for the guidance regarding exposure in a residential setting.

Q- Is there guidance to Members and Families should they take their loved one home for an extended period of time?

A-In the current COVID-19 public health crisis, many individuals with I/DD have chosen to live temporarily with their families. Care Coordination Organizations (CCOs) acknowledge the additional assistance caregivers may require from both their Care Managers and their residential providers to appropriately care for individuals in the home. Please [click here](#) to read the guidance outlining the various resources and support families and caregivers may receive from CCOs and residential providers during an extended home visit.

Q- Can Community Habilitation be provided out of NYS during the state of emergency?

A- Please [click here](#) to read the guidance issued by OPWDD on April 17, 2020 outlining the provision of Community Habilitation and the allowance for services to be received out of NYS during this time.

Q- Where on the Care Design NY website will the recording of the meetings be located?

A- Please [click here](#) for the recordings of the online meetings.

Q-Where on the Care Design NY website can I find information on the SOS Tool?

A- In response to COVID-19, Care Design NY developed a centralized database of emergency resources for Members and Families and providers to assist Members who have been impacted by the pandemic. [Click here](#) to access the SOS COVID-19 Search tool.

Q- Is there guidance on face coverings usage for Direct Support Staff?

A- Yes, please [click here](#) to read the guidance issued by Department of Health on April 14, 2020.

Q- Is there information on the website pertaining to Benefits and Entitlements?

A- Yes, please [click here](#) for the information about the changes to benefits and entitlements.

Q- Can Life Plan Meetings be held virtually?

A- Yes, Life Plan Meetings can be held virtually, but many providers' staff are not available during this public health emergency. If providers are important in the life of the person, then the Life Plan Meetings might be postponed.

The COVID-19 public health crisis is rapidly changing. This information represents the most up to date information we had at the time of publishing. We will update as new information becomes available.