



Coronavirus (COVID-19)

News Bulletin

December 16, 2020

What's Happening at Care Design NY

You are invited to join us for the next online meeting this **Thursday, December 17 @ 11:00 am - 12:30 pm**. Please [click here](#) to register. You may also submit a topic and/or question that you would like addressed during the event online registration process. Your feedback is very important to us!

We are recording meetings for your convenience. If you would like to listen to a past meeting, please [click here](#) to access. [Click here](#) to see all of the upcoming meetings this month and January 2021.

COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Information & Advocacy

NYS I/DD Prioritization for COVID-19 Vaccine

New York State (NYS) received 177,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved under its emergency use authorization (EUA). Individuals with Developmental and/or Intellectual Disabilities (I/DD) living in certified residences, supported IRAs and Family Care Homes with their direct support professionals, have been prioritized to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 1A of the State's distribution plan in two groups as follows:

- **Group 1:** Individuals living in the 414 OPWDD certified residences with many individuals over the age of 65 will receive the first dose of the Pfizer vaccine through a pharmacy distribution-- CVS or Walgreens. The second dose to complete the Pfizer vaccination will follow three weeks later. *Note: logistical details are in development and agencies who operate these residences will be notified.*
- **Group 2:** A COVID vaccine developed by Moderna is awaiting FDA EUA approval and 346,000 doses are expected to arrive in NYS the week of December 21. These will contemporaneously be administered. The second dose to complete the Moderna vaccination will then follow four weeks later.

The vaccine distribution plan for the approximately 70,000 individuals with I/DD living in New York State communities has not yet been communicated with Care Coordination Organizations (CCOs).

[Click here](#) to access the letter to members and families from Jim Moran, Care Design NY CEO for more details and also information on the consent process to receive the vaccine.

The Care Coordination Organizations (CCOs) are advocating and wrote a letter to Governor Cuomo. They stated in the letter, "In planning for the hierarchal prioritization of distribution of this vaccine throughout the state of New York, we are advocating that the individuals with I/DD residing in community based settings, as well as the direct care staff and care management staff for these individuals, be given priority when it comes to vaccine distribution."

[Click here](#) to read the entire letter to Governor Cuomo from the CCOs.

Please continue your advocacy to ensure all individuals with I/DD in New York State will be designated to receive the vaccine in a prioritized phase!

Questions? Email: memberfeedback@caredesignny.org

Online Special Education Resources

Customized Special Education Resources

We understand that amid the pandemic you're navigating new norms and expectations related to your child's special education needs. To help guide our

commitment to provide meaningful support and resources we have created a brief survey for Care Design NY members (through age 21) and/or their families living in the regions/counties* listed below.

[Click here](#) to complete this seven (7) question special education survey.

*Regions/Counties:

- Capital Region 1, 2 (Albany, Columbia, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, and Schoharie);
- Lower Hudson Valley (Rockland and Westchester);
- North Country (Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, St. Lawrence, Warren, and Washington);
- Upper Hudson Valley (Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Sullivan, and Ulster).

LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL: TRANSITION PLANNING FOR YOUR CHILD

We recorded our November 18 special education session for your child's IEP after high school. [Click here](#) to access the recording of the presentation and meeting resources.

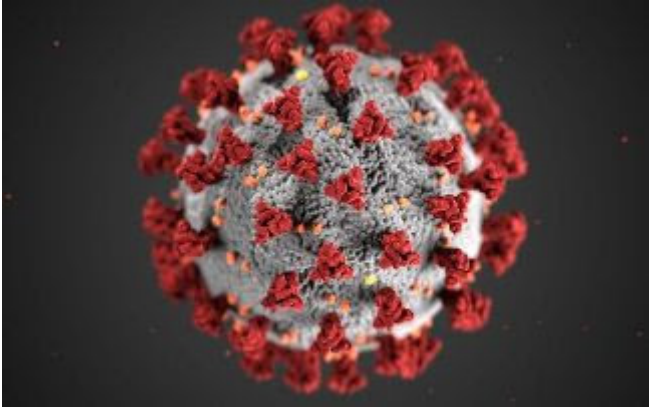
OPWDD News, Updates & Health Advisories

December 18 Deadline for Public Comment

The opportunity to comment on the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) draft of the Comprehensive Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Amendment ends this week on December 18, 2020. This HCBS Waiver is the Medicaid program that provides opportunities for adults and children with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) to receive services in their own home or community.

[Click here](#) to learn more and to access a copy of the draft April 1, 2021 Waiver Amendment. Written comments can be sent to OPWDD via email at: peoplefirstwaiver@opwdd.ny.gov or by mail to: OPWDD, Attention: Division of Policy and Program Development, [44 Holland Avenue, Albany, NY 12229](#). Please specify "1915(c) April 1, 2021 Waiver Amendment Comments" in the subject line.

Additional Resources & Events



FREE Telehealth Hotline: 888-847-3209

Known as *Project Connect*, the telehealth line is free and available anytime for people with disabilities, their families, caregivers and other members of their support teams across the nation. The support line was developed through a special partnership between the Arc of California and the Stony Brook University School of Social Welfare. The hotline is staffed by Stony Brook graduate students who are supervised by licensed social workers and offer guidance, support, and referrals.



COVID-19 Accessible Materials
for People with Disabilities

A Variety of Accessible Formats & Webinars

The Georgia Tech Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation (CIDI), with funding from the CDC Foundation and technical assistance from the CDC is adapting COVID-19 materials into accessible formats for people with disabilities. There is an online microsite where you can request embossed braille, download accessible Word documents and PDF files, and register for webinars related to COVID-19 for people with disabilities.

[Click here](#) to visit. Please share with your networks.



Keep the Rally Spirit Going!

The NYC FAIR and LIANDD with the NYC Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council organizers are asking for your help to tell Governor Cuomo, "Save Our Services. Be Our Hero!"

Here are instructions for calling the Governor:

Step 1: Dial 518.474.8320 and press 2.

Step 2: Leave a voicemail. Here is a suggested message to record:

"Please find the money to save the services our loved ones depend on. The need for these services grows as withholds and cuts shrink our services and supports. We are afraid of the future. We need your help!"

Please ask your friends, relatives, and/or neighbors to also call Governor Cuomo! #SaveIDDServices!

Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Care Design NY is committed to getting answers to your most pressing questions! We have documented the answers from our subject matter experts.

Have a question? Please email: memberfeedback@caredesignny.org.

Emergency Resource Search (COVID-19 SOS)

COVID-19 Resource Center for Members

