



**TRANSCRIPT**  
**COMMUNITY & PROVIDER FORUM: COVID-19**  
January 29, 2021 ▪ 12pm via WebEx

1  
00:00:00.000 --> 00:00:03.899 **ANDREW REESE**  
People who have tested positive

2  
00:00:03.899 --> 00:00:17.454  
for COVID-19, as of today in January, there have been 47 people who've tested positive. As you can see, we have experienced, like the rest of the country a little bit of a surge.

3  
00:00:17.754 --> 00:00:24.263  
as it were in November, December, and January. One caveat to that

4  
00:00:24.263 --> 00:00:38.064  
if you look, we're at the same level we were at back in May, but when I look down at the people who have tested positive, so testing is much more and not to mimic what we've heard

5  
00:00:38.094 --> 00:00:49.463  
so often about well, this is why the numbers are. So high, but testing is much more, widely available and the recommendations about testing now are different than they were last spring when it was not as widely available.

6  
00:00:49.463 --> 00:01:02.484  
And so, when I look at the data, and I look among those, 47 people in January, 30% of them are people who are asymptomatic. So, those folks got tested because there was an exposure.

7  
00:01:02.484 --> 00:01:11.754  
When I look back to May, that percentage was about half that. And so, part of the explanation of the high number is also that our

8  
00:01:15.745 --> 00:01:30.625



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tracking of this, where we are the surveillance is much more complete than it would have been in the spring. And so, while I am disturbed by the high number there is that little caveat I would like to include. And also, as I had said before that 390 total

9

00:01:32.849 --> 00:01:40.650

If you add up, if someone is going along, adding each of these up per month, you'll see that the total of

10

00:01:40.650 --> 00:01:53.155

the month comes out to 392, and the reason for that is that we have two folks who have, in fact, contracted COVID on two separate occasions one in April and December, and the other in April in January.

11

00:01:53.155 --> 00:01:57.174

And in both instances, we had intervening negative tests and

12

00:02:00.629 --> 00:02:04.739

reinfections later in the year.

13

00:02:06.269 --> 00:02:19.169

Which does get to the point of the importance of continuing to use personal protective equipment, using the proper face mask, keeping distance.

14

00:02:19.169 --> 00:02:22.979

You know, limiting going out, etcetera.

15

00:02:23.905 --> 00:02:37.465

So, if you look at the break down by placement type, we've had 6 people in host home, 111 people in intermediate care facilities 1 person who was in a mental health facility.

16

00:02:39.060 --> 00:02:42.750



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45 people in their natural homes.

17

00:02:42.750 --> 00:02:48.360

2 people in nursing homes, 4 who were in out-of-state placements,

18

00:02:48.360 --> 00:02:57.210

34 in residential habilitation and 187 in supported living.

19

00:02:58.590 --> 00:03:03.900

And so if you look at those

20

00:03:05.034 --> 00:03:11.365

sort of numbers as the total of people that we support in each kind of placement,

21

00:03:11.365 --> 00:03:20.634

so, for example, within intermediate care facilities of the 111 people who have tested positive, that represents about 37% of the ICF population

22

00:03:23.520 --> 00:03:35.009

of people diagnosed with COVID who then died. There were 18% in ICF's, but only 10.8% of those have been confirmed COVID deaths.

23

00:03:35.514 --> 00:03:47.664

In natural homes, the 45 people who have contracted COVID represent 4.8% of the people we support in natural homes and of those people who contracted COVID 11% have then died,

24

00:03:47.664 --> 00:03:51.775

and all of those have been confirmed to be COVID deaths.

25



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00:03:54.719 --> 00:03:59.370  
In residential habilitation 30.9%

26  
00:03:59.370 --> 00:04:05.189  
of people in Reshabs, have contracted COVID,

27  
00:04:05.189 --> 00:04:16.199  
of those 8.8% have died and 5.9% have been confirmed COVID deaths.

28  
00:04:17.665 --> 00:04:29.274  
In supported living, 20% of people in supported living, have contracted COVID, of those 8% have died, but only 6.4% of those have been confirmed as COVID deaths.

29  
00:04:32.218 --> 00:04:46.319  
Overall, in people supported by DDA, 16.23% have contracted COVID, of those 11.53% have died, but we've only had 8.6%

30  
00:04:46.319 --> 00:04:51.569  
who had been confirmed COVID deaths.

31  
00:04:51.569 --> 00:04:58.918  
So, in the month of January, for our sort of

32  
00:04:59.603 --> 00:05:13.973  
larger placement types in ICF we've had 9, as I said before 9 people who contracted COVID, ResHab 1; supported living 29; and natural home there have been 8 and

33  
00:05:14.968 --> 00:05:25.168  
you can see sort of how that has gone, that it does seem that supported living is the one that has really jumped in the last couple of months



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34

00:05:25.168 --> 00:05:31.499  
in December and January.

35

00:05:31.499 --> 00:05:36.088  
So people who required inpatient treatment

36

00:05:36.088 --> 00:05:48.509  
because of COVID, there have been 9 in January and fortunately, currently there are 5 people, only 5 people who are still hospitalized receiving COVID treatment.

37

00:05:52.108 --> 00:06:00.869  
So we have had of the people who have tested positive for COVID. We have had 45 who have died.

38

00:06:04.882 --> 00:06:15.774  
Seven of those 45 we have gotten confirmation from OCME that in fact those were not COVID related deaths and we are still waiting confirmation on 5,

39

00:06:16.978 --> 00:06:20.819  
awaiting the cause of death from OCME

40

00:06:23.639 --> 00:06:32.968  
and so, in terms of confirmed COVID deaths, there have been none in the month of January. We did have one person

41

00:06:32.968 --> 00:06:38.879  
who died, but that was a person who had had COVID quite some time ago.

42

00:06:39.954 --> 00:06:51.053



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People asked if this presentation could be available online, so we will be posting this in the same location where we post our transcripts of these meetings on our website.

43

00:06:52.704 --> 00:06:59.334

I believe sometime next week, these will be posted starting with the one at the beginning of December.

44

00:07:15.269 --> 00:07:28.499

So I see there's a question: **ANDREW REESE(QUESTION)** When will 1099 W2's be mailed out to providers from DHCF?

45

00:07:28.499 --> 00:07:36.778 **ANDREW REESE (ANSWER)**

As you know, we are fortunate to have people from DC Health, join us on these calls.

46

00:07:36.778 --> 00:07:43.139

I don't believe we have anyone from DHCF and

47

00:07:43.139 --> 00:07:50.218

certainly, not from, you know, the, it seems to me those get done by the OCFO.

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00:07:50.218 --> 00:07:56.488

The office the Chief Financial Officer, and if I am not mistaken

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00:07:56.488 --> 00:08:04.408

that occurs at the same time as the W2's out. So it would be the end of this month, I believe.

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00:08:04.408 --> 00:08:10.288

But I'm just guessing. We will check with OCFO

51

00:08:10.288 --> 00:08:14.968



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and provide a response next week.

52  
00:08:17.848 --> 00:08:26.038  
Silence.

53  
00:08:26.038 --> 00:08:32.308 **ANDREW REESE**  
I do see the question related to the staff and I have to pull that up.

54  
00:08:32.308 --> 00:08:38.578  
When I'm presenting, I make sure to close out on windows so that I don't accidentally share information.

55  
00:08:38.578 --> 00:08:43.798

56  
00:08:46.889 --> 00:08:51.839  
Silence.

57  
00:08:55.979 --> 00:09:00.328  
Hello.

58  
00:09:15.203 --> 00:09:23.033  
So, there were 20 new staff reported as positive for COVID-19 in the last week. There are 599

59  
00:09:25.229 --> 00:09:29.339  
staff who have tested positive,

60  
00:09:29.339 --> 00:09:34.859  
45 staff have been reported by more than one agency as testing positive.



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61

00:09:34.859 --> 00:09:41.428

And, sadly, there have been 10 people among provider staff who have died from COVID.

62

00:09:42.719 --> 00:09:54.239

And just as an update for people we did have, we may have talked about this last week. We had well,

63

00:09:54.239 --> 00:09:59.759

DC Health had with a lot of partnerships with

64

00:09:59.759 --> 00:10:13.499

the vaccination clinic as it were this week for 2 days, which was available to people in ICF and

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00:10:13.499 --> 00:10:16.859

ResHab. We had

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00:10:16.859 --> 00:10:22.499

about 330 appointments available in those 2 days.

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00:10:25.134 --> 00:10:35.514

I stopped by on the 2nd day, and I will say our partners at DC Health worked along with, it was Giant that was administering the vaccines,

68

00:10:37.104 --> 00:10:49.464

Howard University was there, and DC Parks and Rec was also there assisting, and from my perspective, and the feedback I've seen has been generally all positive.

69

00:10:50.908 --> 00:11:00.599





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It was a really impressive process of ensuring that people could maintain a distance and moving people through,

70

00:11:00.599 --> 00:11:14.009

signing them, then having them wait, having them go over, get their vaccine, go to another location. Wait for 15 minutes and be observed and then move on.

71

00:11:14.009 --> 00:11:20.759

It was quite a successful day. We're getting the numbers back from all the providers of

72

00:11:20.759 --> 00:11:26.548

the percentages of people that actually got their vaccine that day.

73

00:11:26.548 --> 00:11:31.828

And we will be, as I said, before, we'll be tracking those numbers in terms of

74

00:11:31.828 --> 00:11:42.083

folks who got the vaccine. We've gotten some good data from some of our providers about some people who are not getting the vaccine yet, the reasons for that,

75

00:11:42.083 --> 00:11:49.974

and the kinds of support they may need in order to get that. Some people needed to consult with a physician first,

76

00:11:49.974 --> 00:11:50.994

if someone was ill,

77

00:11:50.994 --> 00:11:52.283

they would not get a vaccine,

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00:11:52.283 --> 00:11:59.183

so, providers are really working to do what they can to make sure the folks they support get it as soon as possible.

79

00:12:00.418 --> 00:12:08.788

And I know this a very challenging time, because the numbers of vaccine available are certainly less than any of us would like.

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00:12:08.788 --> 00:12:15.509

And so I believe.

81

00:12:15.509 --> 00:12:25.229

I don't believe it's true. We've been working closely with DC Health and we'll continue to work closely with them

82

00:12:25.229 --> 00:12:31.109

to do what we can to make vaccine available.

83

00:12:31.109 --> 00:12:34.349

84

00:12:34.349 --> 00:12:39.749

And as I say, and Karen Stringfield is here with us today so that if people have

85

00:12:39.749 --> 00:12:46.168

questions about the vaccine, Karen is from DC Health. She and Kirk worked together

86

00:12:46.168 --> 00:12:57.744

to coordinate this event this week, that I just thought went really well and so I'm hopeful that we'll be able to coordinate other similar events as vaccine is available



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87

00:12:58.433 --> 00:13:04.043

so that we can really have an efficient process for making sure that all the people we support, get the vaccine.

88

00:13:04.889 --> 00:13:08.489

As a reminder, because I know that

89

00:13:08.489 --> 00:13:12.239

much of our staff

90

00:13:13.043 --> 00:13:27.533

well, that all provider staff have been eligible to get the vaccine, and they're having some of the same challenges as everyone else in getting it, for those people who weren't able to register immediately when the word went out.

91

00:13:28.553 --> 00:13:30.774

But as people get the vaccine,

92

00:13:31.288 --> 00:13:41.068

as DC Health told us 2 or 3 weeks ago, it's an extra layer of support. It's an extra layer of protection. It is not a reason

93

00:13:41.068 --> 00:13:54.719

to cease any of the other protection that we should be using regularly, face masks in ICF and other placements, using a face shield.

94

00:13:54.719 --> 00:14:03.448

maintaining safe distance, washing our hands regularly so continuing to do these things.

95

00:14:03.448 --> 00:14:09.448



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You know, I've been saying since last summer and

96

00:14:09.594 --> 00:14:12.354

It hasn't even sunk in for me quite frankly,

97

00:14:12.354 --> 00:14:14.994

but this is a marathon and,

98

00:14:15.024 --> 00:14:15.413

you know,

99

00:14:15.413 --> 00:14:15.683

we,

100

00:14:15.744 --> 00:14:27.323

got word that the public health emergency is being extended yet again and that that CMS expects to see it extended well into the calendar year.

101

00:14:27.899 --> 00:14:34.229

And what that means is that we need to continue

102

00:14:34.229 --> 00:14:36.354

with taking all these precautions,

103

00:14:36.833 --> 00:14:50.783

but what it also means is that we need to continue to have the discussions for people who are limiting going out about how we help people ensure that they are engaged in meaningful activities during the day.

104

00:14:51.293 --> 00:14:58.403



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And we've gotten some input from people. We've been working with DHCF and soon

105

00:14:58.464 --> 00:15:08.543

we hope to be able to make some changes to our Appendix K that will help to further support providers to be able to really help people be engaged during the day.

106

00:15:18.953 --> 00:15:22.943 **ANDRE REESE (QUESTION)**

What is a plan for inoculation for people served by DDS?

107

00:15:25.589 --> 00:15:33.058 **ANDRE REESE (ANSWER)**

Well we walked through last week, the order of priority

108

00:15:33.058 --> 00:15:36.509

and so

109

00:15:37.558 --> 00:15:42.658

if you go to [vaccinate.dc.gov](https://vaccinate.dc.gov) you can see

110

00:15:42.658 --> 00:15:50.369

the vaccine rollout and so in the current stage of the roll out

111

00:15:50.369 --> 00:15:55.438

people who are in congregate settings, supported by DDA, which

112

00:15:55.438 --> 00:16:02.458

unfortunately means just residential habilitation and ICF

113

00:16:02.458 --> 00:16:05.489

are able to get the vaccine.



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114

00:16:06.384 --> 00:16:19.283

Coming up in that one of the next rounds so they have category 1A, and then 1B and 1C, but each of those also has tiers and so in category 1C

115

00:16:19.313 --> 00:16:27.923

is people with underlying health conditions that place them at higher risk for serious outcomes from COVID and

116

00:16:28.558 --> 00:16:42.509

as determined by their physician, and if you look at the definition, it links you to the CDC definition of conditions that place you at higher risk.

117

00:16:42.509 --> 00:16:46.859

And the way that the District is defining higher risk

118

00:16:46.859 --> 00:16:51.384

there is a category when you go to that website,

119

00:16:51.864 --> 00:17:03.984

there's the first category that says these conditions do place you at higher risk and then there's a separate category that says these conditions may place you at higher risk.

120

00:17:04.463 --> 00:17:17.124

And so, when DC gets to the group of people who are at higher risk, it will include all people who are and may be a higher risk for serious outcomes from COVID, according to the CDC.

121

00:17:17.453 --> 00:17:22.973

And so, as I said, we continue working with DC Health and

122

00:17:23.608 --> 00:17:33.328



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to identify as early as possible that we can get the people that we support the vaccine.

123

00:17:39.449 --> 00:17:52.769

There's a reminder here from someone, if you are asking a question, you have to scroll down to where it says *everyone*. I know when I open mine up

124

00:17:52.769 --> 00:17:57.598

it defaults to *all attendees*.

125

00:17:58.403 --> 00:18:12.953

Those of us who answered the questions are presenters not attendees, so we don't see your question. If you scroll down, you'll see *everyone*. So please post any questions in *everyone* because otherwise

126

00:18:14.009 --> 00:18:20.278

the 237

127

00:18:21.298 --> 00:18:28.888

attendees will see your question and the presenters who could answer your question will not.

128

00:18:30.479 --> 00:18:36.538 **ANDRE REESE (QUESTION)**

There's a question about whether

129

00:18:37.403 --> 00:18:49.943

Are there plans for PPE availability for low income people in the city living with their families?  
Are there resources for low income families to have access to these items?

130

00:18:50.334 --> 00:18:53.453 **ANDRE REESE (ANSWER)**

I'm going to ask if anyone from DC Health

131



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00:18:53.759 --> 00:18:58.078  
has a response to that, because I'm not aware of that.

132  
00:19:00.778 --> 00:19:09.084 **DARYL HAWKINS (ANSWER)**  
Hi Director Reese, this is Daryl Hawkins from DC Health. I'm not aware of any specific resources in terms of PPE, for low income individuals.

133  
00:19:09.503 --> 00:19:24.294  
however, what I can do is I can, although that doesn't mean that there isn't some kind of service, I know that there's certain things that we can provide individuals who are in isolation at home, or are under quarantine.

134  
00:19:25.104 --> 00:19:38.483  
For example, we do have a home visiting team that can provide resources to those individuals that are currently isolated or quarantined for COVID when they are in the community. So

135  
00:19:38.939 --> 00:19:52.884  
I can try to find out, though, if there's any resources for low income individuals that are not under quarantine or isolation for PPE and I will get back to you and I'll email it to DDS

136  
00:19:52.884 --> 00:19:58.733  
so that you could provide that to the group, or I can bring that update next week. **ANDREW REESE** Thanks. Thank you.

137  
00:20:02.453 --> 00:20:14.963 **ANDRE REESE (QUESTION)**  
Some states have included people with developmental disabilities in earlier phases of vaccination. Has there been advocacy in DC Health to get people with DD included in 1A to 1C?

138  
00:20:14.963 --> 00:20:18.413  
This question may have been asked earlier.





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139

00:20:18.749 --> 00:20:27.328

So, this is really about people in natural homes and supported living.

140

00:20:28.469 --> 00:20:32.848 **ANDRE REESE (ANSWER)**

We're in 1B right now.

141

00:20:32.848 --> 00:20:43.588

In fact, the CDC has included people with Down Syndrome as people who are at higher risk for serious outcomes from COVID, so they would be included.

142

00:20:43.588 --> 00:20:50.608

The District is defining very broadly

143

00:20:51.989 --> 00:20:58.919

people who are at high risk and Karen maybe you'd like to respond to that.

144

00:21:04.949 --> 00:21:09.028 **KAREN STRINGFIELD (ANSWER)**

Hi, everybody this is Karen.

145

00:21:09.028 --> 00:21:20.638

I think that your earlier statement of, just make sure that you go on to [coronavirus.dc.gov](https://coronavirus.dc.gov) to check to see what category

146

00:21:20.638 --> 00:21:26.608

your specific population would be included is the best way to

147

00:21:26.608 --> 00:21:33.028

get more information, or get concise information about where you will fall in that category



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148

00:21:33.028 --> 00:21:36.118  
or where you would fall in the phases,

149

00:21:36.118 --> 00:21:46.048  
regarding like the down syndrome and things like that, I haven't heard anything specific about that, but that

150

00:21:46.048 --> 00:21:54.929  
isn't to say that is not how it is, so I don't have anything specific to add to it but

151

00:21:54.929 --> 00:22:02.759  
go on to the website and just follow that and also to receive the updates, as they come out through, [vaccinate.dc.gov](https://vaccinate.dc.gov).

152

00:22:09.324 --> 00:22:23.453 **ANDRE REESE (QUESTION)**  
When will people who have DDS as their Rep payee start receiving their stimulus checks,  
**ANDRE REESE (ANSWER)** those started coming in and so they have been starting to be deposited so people should start to see those now.

153

00:22:24.028 --> 00:22:33.598  
I have an email which told me how many hundreds were deposited last week, but I know that those have been coming in. So, people should start seeing those soon.

154

00:22:37.253 --> 00:22:39.443 **ANDRE REESE (QUESTION)**  
So this question is for DC Health,

155

00:22:40.193 --> 00:22:45.443  
We've seen a number of different articles or opinion pieces published in the last week,

156

00:22:45.804 --> 00:22:48.443



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suggesting double masking or the use of,

157

00:22:48.443 --> 00:22:52.763

N95 mask in the wider community due to the new variants in the virus.

158

00:22:52.763 --> 00:23:03.173

A few of our employees have asked if we need to change PPE practices in our homes. Do you have any reason to anticipate changes in PPE recommendations?

159

00:23:03.743 --> 00:23:12.294

We are doing our best to point people to official public health guidance, but wanting to respond to their concerns as well?

160

00:23:17.034 --> 00:23:19.253 **DARYL HAWKINS (ANSWER)**

Thanks for that question, we've gotten that question too.

161

00:23:19.943 --> 00:23:24.263

I will say that for your healthcare personnel,

162

00:23:24.294 --> 00:23:30.864

meaning DSP's or anyone that goes into the home that when we're asked to wear a medical face mask,

163

00:23:30.864 --> 00:23:38.453

those medical face mask do have 3 layers and that's kind of what they're referencing and all of those things that you're hearing in the public,

164

00:23:38.874 --> 00:23:39.324

for,

165



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00:23:40.523 --> 00:23:41.844  
the general public,

166  
00:23:41.844 --> 00:23:43.493  
in terms of cloth face mask,

167  
00:23:43.644 --> 00:23:44.213  
if they're using,

168  
00:23:45.023 --> 00:23:49.854  
cloth face mask and they should make sure that they are wearing mask that are made of,

169  
00:23:49.854 --> 00:23:57.324  
material that can sufficiently potentially filter their breath,

170  
00:23:57.324 --> 00:23:57.834  
I guess,

171  
00:23:58.044 --> 00:24:02.544  
be good source control and also can be somewhat protective towards them.

172  
00:24:04.769 --> 00:24:19.644  
A medical face mask is going to be more protective than generally a cloth face covering, which is why we changed our PPE guidance that healthcare personnel should not be wearing cloth-based covering

173  
00:24:19.644 --> 00:24:33.864  
to work at this time. But I'll let Nelson also interject. If he has any updates at this time, our guidance is not going to be changed and we still do not recommend double masking for health care personnel. So



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174

00:24:34.439 --> 00:24:42.719

that's all I have. Thanks. **NELSON VANUCCI** The only thing I have to add is the most important thing is

175

00:24:42.719 --> 00:24:52.828

that the mask that you do wear fits properly, because it doesn't matter if you're wearing the most expensive, fanciest respirator N95

176

00:24:52.828 --> 00:25:04.679

if it's loosely fitting around your face, then it's just a fancy clothing accessory and it's not, anything that's going to help protect you or others. So

177

00:25:04.679 --> 00:25:12.209

keeping that in mind is really the most important thing that, whatever you do choose to wear, that it fits properly and that you're

178

00:25:12.209 --> 00:25:17.608

following the instructions for use for that particular mask.

179

00:25:17.608 --> 00:25:29.519 **ANDREW REESE (QUESTION)**

I believe there was a discussion about updating the Appendix K with more clear and possible new amendments.

180

00:25:29.519 --> 00:25:36.778

Will the companion issue of 1:1 services for example, for people in natural homes

181

00:25:36.778 --> 00:25:50.398

or host home where there is only one person receiving services be stipulated also, if family members are allowed to provide the companion service under the DDS waiver during the pandemic period?



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182

00:25:51.449 --> 00:26:06.449 **ANDREW REESE (ANSWER)**

Let me say that my hope is that next week is we'll be able to provide a more thorough presentation on where we are with the Appendix K to respond to specific questions.

183

00:26:09.443 --> 00:26:21.713

We had a number of concurrent meetings this morning, including one that other people were in that I couldn't be in discussing the Appendix case. So I can't give you the most current information, but we will update you next week.

184

00:26:22.769 --> 00:26:30.328 **ANDRE REESE (QUESTION)**

This is for DC Health. We test our staff every two weeks.

185

00:26:30.328 --> 00:26:38.759

When they get the vaccine, do you know if their test will present as positive and therefore cannot, or should not continue to be tested?

186

00:26:38.759 --> 00:26:49.798 **DARYL HAWKINS (ANSWER)**

Great question we get that question too, a lot. The vaccine will not make someone's PCR test positive. We

187

00:26:49.798 --> 00:26:58.858

would encourage you, that's part of your policy that those that are vaccinated should be continued to be tested as anyone else who was not vaccinated.

188

00:26:58.858 --> 00:27:06.298

So, again, to reiterate getting the vaccine will not make your PCR COVID test positive.

189

00:27:06.298 --> 00:27:12.959

If that is positive, you should treat it as such that that person is positive for COVID 19 and then



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190

00:27:12.959 --> 00:27:21.659

continue to implement all of the infection control guidance and all of the DC health guidance for a person that's positive for COVID.

191

00:27:21.659 --> 00:27:32.278 **ANDRE REESE (QUESTION)**

Can you please provide the link to request PPE supply for DDS providers?

192

00:27:32.278 --> 00:27:35.459 **ANDRE REESE (ANSWER)**

I know that early in the pandemic

193

00:27:35.459 --> 00:27:41.699

that DC Health, Emergency Preparedness and Response Administration,

194

00:27:43.919 --> 00:27:45.054

I don't know if I had that right, I know they're HEPRA.

195

00:27:45.054 --> 00:27:59.334

I know they were providing PPE for providers and that was very early on so that when we had it, you know, unfortunately, when we had a diagnosis, we would then make sure that there was adequate PPE.

196

00:28:00.538 --> 00:28:15.419

I believe the expectation at this time is that providers are able to get this. It may be Kirk that, I mean, QRS's should be talking to folks about whether they have access to an adequate supply of PPE.

197

00:28:19.078 --> 00:28:30.328 **KIRK DOBSON**

Hi Director Reese. That's correct. QRS' should be checking in frequently during their unit updates to see if there are any resource limitations that they can assist with.

198



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00:28:30.328 --> 00:28:34.409  
Silence.

199  
00:28:34.409 --> 00:28:39.778 **DARYL HAWKINS**  
I will add though that if any of your providers are currently experiencing emergency

200  
00:28:39.778 --> 00:28:45.598  
shortages on any PPE that

201  
00:28:45.598 --> 00:28:52.919  
they should, if you could forward them to us, to DC Health.

202  
00:28:52.919 --> 00:29:03.358  
Again, what, even in the beginning of the pandemic that PPE supply was really for emergency use. So, for example, if your setting was having an outbreak, for example

203  
00:29:03.358 --> 00:29:16.858  
and none of your primary secondary suppliers are able to supply you with the PPE, that is required, DC HEPRA was able to provide some temporary stopgap PPE,

204  
00:29:16.858 --> 00:29:28.344  
none of which, you know, in terms of amount is guaranteed, but really just to help tie some facilities over until they were able to get the supply from their normal source.

205  
00:29:28.644 --> 00:29:36.443  
So, if anyone is having that issue to please refer them to reach out to us. But as of right now I'm not aware of any

206  
00:29:36.719 --> 00:29:43.259  
District-wide or nationwide shortages on any particular PPE.





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207

00:29:43.259 --> 00:29:52.078

We do want to know if any of your providers are experiencing that. So, we are aware, and we can let DC HEPRA know as well thanks.

208

00:29:53.519 --> 00:29:57.028

209

00:29:57.028 --> 00:30:07.528 **ANDRE REESE (QUESTION)**

I'm interested in advocating for the inclusion earlier. This person's sister has downs, 1C is getting delayed.

210

00:30:07.528 --> 00:30:12.419 **ANDRE REESE (ANSWER)**

You know, unfortunately

211

00:30:12.419 --> 00:30:15.568

DC Health has had to balance

212

00:30:15.568 --> 00:30:26.669

you know, hundreds of thousands of people, and in terms of the priority of when people are able to have access to the vaccine,

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00:30:26.669 --> 00:30:34.469

and so, at this time, people with Down Syndrome would be in 1C with all other people.

214

00:30:34.469 --> 00:30:41.578

who are under the age of 65. Now if your sister were 65 or older, she's eligible to get the vaccine now.

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00:30:41.578 --> 00:30:55.919



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But all people under the age of 65 who have a condition that places them at higher risk for serious outcomes from COVID are included at this time in group 1C.

216

00:30:57.989 --> 00:31:07.499

And I will say that the inclusion based on age was based on the very serious outcomes for people based on age.

217

00:31:20.844 --> 00:31:28.253 **ANDREW REESE (QUESTION)**

So the link [vaccinate.dc.gov](https://vaccinate.dc.gov) provided to schedule for staff vaccination indicates no appointments currently available.

218

00:31:29.304 --> 00:31:35.933 **ANDRE REESE (ANSWER)**

That's true. Is there any information on when appointments will open again for scheduling? Karen, do you know that?

219

00:31:37.314 --> 00:31:51.534 **KAREN STRINGFIELD (ANSWER)**

So, here's the fact of the matter is that appointments get put into the system weekly because D.C. basically gets a weekly shipment. So, based on our shipment, we are able to say

220

00:31:52.949 --> 00:31:58.854

facilities will get a certain allocation, so it is a weekly thing that appointments are open.

221

00:31:59.034 --> 00:32:08.003

Unfortunately, they go very quickly because, you know, supply is not as great as demand is right now.

222

00:32:08.003 --> 00:32:20.513

So, I think originally, the hope was, is that shipments would, incrementally increase as time goes on that increase has happened, but it's been very modest.

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00:32:20.634 --> 00:32:21.294



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224

00:32:21.473 --> 00:32:21.864

So,

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00:32:21.864 --> 00:32:29.453

I think that everybody may have heard the new administration, President Biden has basically promised to

226

00:32:29.483 --> 00:32:41.124

order several more hundreds of thousands of doses that would be sufficient for vaccinating most Americans by the end of the summertime.

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00:32:41.124 --> 00:32:51.354

And also, within the next couple of weeks, I think Johnson and Johnson should be coming on board under emergency use. That is a one shot. So, it may

228

00:32:51.898 --> 00:33:01.193

not necessarily fix the issue of supply and demand, but it'll definitely give us a little bit of a relief on this.

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00:33:01.193 --> 00:33:08.723

So, I would kind of double down and making sure that people know that on [vaccinate.dc.gov](https://vaccinate.dc.gov)

230

00:33:08.753 --> 00:33:21.713

It is very important that you sign up for either text or email alerts so that as soon as appointments become available that you are made aware, and you can go on to the site as early as possible. Now, if you get that text message at 9 o'clock

231

00:33:22.138 --> 00:33:36.413



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appointments may be gone by 9:10 so if you're planning on going on at 12 o'clock, you're going to be too late. The other thing is, is that I know that's everybody is not technologically savvy, but the call center is open.

232

00:33:36.413 --> 00:33:44.634

It may take a little bit longer, but you may also be able to get some appointments secured by then. They use the same platform. So

233

00:33:45.953 --> 00:33:49.943

all that to say, there are weekly appointments that are opening, please keep trying.

234

00:33:51.054 --> 00:33:53.124

And I know that it can be frustrating,

235

00:33:53.124 --> 00:33:53.483

but,

236

00:33:53.874 --> 00:33:54.413

like you said,

237

00:33:54.413 --> 00:33:55.013

Director Reese,

238

00:33:55.013 --> 00:34:09.474

we are really trying to prioritize really trying to make sure that people are getting their second doses and anybody that is in these in these prioritization groups are able to get theirs.

239

00:34:09.474 --> 00:34:16.974

And just to add on a positive note, DC has been in the top

240



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00:34:17.278 --> 00:34:25.523

five, we actually reached number one for the best jurisdiction for vaccine administration, but we slipped to number 4 or 5 in the last week.

241

00:34:26.123 --> 00:34:39.563

But we're from our standpoint, we're doing an excellent job even though it may seem like it's taking a long time. But I think that's just our anxiety and our frustration, more than anything.

242

00:34:43.228 --> 00:34:56.219 **ANDREW REESE (QUESTION)**

So, there's someone who's asking if there is a number they can call for people who have

243

00:34:56.219 --> 00:35:05.518

contracted COVID-19, and they need to isolate themselves, but aren't able to do it at home and need temporary shelter in a hotel.

244

00:35:05.518 --> 00:35:11.369

Does DC Health, I know early on we had coordination with that,

245

00:35:11.369 --> 00:35:16.708

DHS on that. Does DC Health assist with that when people test positive?

246

00:35:17.818 --> 00:35:28.619 **DARYL HAWKINS (ANSWER)**

Hi Director Reese, as far as I'm aware that collaboration with DHS, in terms of those specific sites are still

247

00:35:28.619 --> 00:35:33.389

available, so that would still be the same

248

00:35:34.043 --> 00:35:48.503



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process to be able to get individuals into those specific sites. I will remind everyone, and this might not be the situation for the person who asked this question. But just as a reminder in those specific sites where people are able to isolate,

249

00:35:48.503 --> 00:36:00.684

some of them are hotels, et cetera. There is no monitoring of that individual. So, if that person requires medical monitoring or help with compliance with their medications or any other medical

250

00:36:00.898 --> 00:36:13.438

needs in that sense, or even behavioral needs, there is no supervision there. It's not meant for individuals that need those kinds of services. So, if it is a person supported, that might need some assistance,

251

00:36:13.438 --> 00:36:17.969

for example, that site

252

00:36:17.969 --> 00:36:28.139

might not be appropriate for that, for your personal support, just keeping that in mind, but that is still available.

253

00:36:28.139 --> 00:36:34.018

And also, still through, I believe, through DHS, so we can double check, but I know they're still up.

254

00:36:34.018 --> 00:36:46.318 **ANDREW REESE**

Yeah, if it were a person supported by DDS, we would work with them to identify a place for the person to stay and probably respite would be my guess, Winslow you

255

00:36:46.318 --> 00:36:50.728

can correct me if I'm wrong.



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256

00:36:50.728 --> 00:37:03.688

Well, providers have reported to us when they have worked out, making sure that people are able to appropriately isolate when they're providing supports to someone who tests positive.

257

00:37:10.378 --> 00:37:21.568 **ANDREW REESE (QUESTION)**

Can people supported by DDS also get scheduled for vaccination using the link [vaccinated.dc.gov](https://vaccinated.dc.gov) yes. For people who are 65 and older.

258

00:37:21.568 --> 00:37:26.579 **ANDREW REESE (ANSWER)**

Yes, they can the folks who live in

259

00:37:26.579 --> 00:37:31.318

Intermediate care facilities and residential

260

00:37:31.318 --> 00:37:39.353

habilitation. We had the two days this week, we're able to vaccinate 331 people and there are still some more to do.

261

00:37:39.353 --> 00:37:46.373

And so, we're hoping to plan another day with DC Health to capture the rest of those.

262

00:37:46.373 --> 00:37:57.023

And we're having conversations with DC Health about having separate days for the people supported by DDS so that we can arrange it rather than going through the website.

263

00:37:58.708 --> 00:38:02.518

More on that later.

264

00:38:02.518 --> 00:38:05.818

But at this time on the website



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265

00:38:08.664 --> 00:38:17.063

certainly people who are in congregate settings they could go through the website if they wanted to, but we will be making an effort to have a day available for them.

266

00:38:17.813 --> 00:38:30.864

So, anyone who, according to the rollout plan that is on [vaccinate.dc.gov](https://vaccinate.dc.gov) who is eligible to get vaccine can register through that website and get the vaccine.

267

00:38:31.289 --> 00:38:34.739

And so, you know, we have

268

00:38:34.739 --> 00:38:46.949

a little over 200 people who are not in ICF's, or residential habilitation who are 65 are older and that is the mechanism for those people at this time to register to get the vaccine.

269

00:38:51.960 --> 00:38:57.360 **ANDREW REESE (QUESTION)**

How do health related service providers such a speech pathologist

270

00:38:57.360 --> 00:39:04.349

who served DDS individuals, but reside in Maryland get assistance in registering for an immediate vaccine?

271

00:39:04.349 --> 00:39:11.670

After multiple attempts, I've not been able to register in DC as a licensed DC health provider.

272

00:39:11.670 --> 00:39:19.800 **ANDREW REESE (ANSWER)**

That's the way folks have done it is to go through. So, there was this really short window,

273

00:39:19.800 --> 00:39:32.610





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I believe it was December 26th that there was first availability for all

274

00:39:32.610 --> 00:39:39.570

Health care staff, which was all of our folks who had direct or indirect contact with the people we support

275

00:39:39.570 --> 00:39:47.610

in the District, and I think it may have originally been ICF and ResHab, but

276

00:39:47.610 --> 00:40:02.425

to register to get the vaccine, and then it expanded beyond that and we did have a short period of time before it was open to seniors, which is when we saw the real rush to get vaccine where anyone

277

00:40:02.730 --> 00:40:10.019

who supported the folks supported by DDA could get the vaccine.

278

00:40:10.019 --> 00:40:17.099

I'm also aware if you are a Maryland licensed healthcare provider,

279

00:40:17.099 --> 00:40:25.050

the licensing board that licenses you would have reached out and provided the information about how to get the vaccine in Maryland,

280

00:40:25.050 --> 00:40:31.710

and that is, I believe that's the same thing in DC.

281

00:40:40.500 --> 00:40:45.329

Someone has provided a link to:

282



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00:40:45.329 --> 00:40:54.719

Covidvac.maryland.gov, which is the system in Maryland, I believe. I'm not sure to register to get the vaccine.

283

00:42:50.724 --> 00:42:53.664 **ANDREW REESE**

So, it seems we've had no additional questions.

284

00:42:53.940 --> 00:42:57.360

It's a few minutes early

285

00:42:58.889 --> 00:43:03.659

but if there are no more questions then we can end just a few minutes early today.

286

00:43:03.659 --> 00:43:12.539

Allow everyone to enjoy what's going to be a cold weekend. Today was the first, this was the first morning that felt like winter.

287

00:43:12.539 --> 00:43:17.099

And so everyone stay safe.

288

00:43:17.099 --> 00:43:22.019

I fully understand the

289

00:43:25.014 --> 00:43:39.534

what's the word I'm trying not to use the word anxiety about when will vaccine be available? I think it's what everyone is feeling, but I do want to echo what Karen has said, which is that DC is really doing everything

290

00:43:39.534 --> 00:43:44.034

They are doing a very good job of getting the vaccine out quickly.



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291  
00:43:46.644 --> 00:43:47.364  
So,

292  
00:43:48.085 --> 00:43:48.565  
you know,

293  
00:43:48.594 --> 00:43:49.945  
unfortunately,

294  
00:43:49.945 --> 00:43:52.585  
whatever it's going to require for a lot of us is patience,

295  
00:43:52.824 --> 00:43:53.364  
but also,

296  
00:43:53.364 --> 00:44:02.994  
patience and caution and continuing to do the kinds of things that I hope people have been doing about making sure you're wearing your mask,

297  
00:44:03.025 --> 00:44:08.664  
keeping a safe distance, washing hands regularly

298  
00:44:09.960 --> 00:44:16.199  
and staying healthy until we get to a point that

299  
00:44:16.199 --> 00:44:30.869  
all the vaccine is widely available and widely administered so that we're really back to a place where we're safe again. So.

300



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00:44:30.869 --> 00:44:38.460

someone has posted links for people in the various jurisdictions in Maryland.

301

00:44:45.659 --> 00:44:50.099 **ANDREW REESE (QUESTION)**

Some staff are scheduled to get the vaccine on Sunday.

302

00:44:50.099 --> 00:44:55.860

If there is a snowstorm that impacts travel will Sunday appointments be rescheduled?

303

00:44:55.860 --> 00:45:02.550 **ANDREW REESE (ANSWER)**

I don't know who those appointments are scheduled with, so it would be based on that provider.

304

00:45:20.130 --> 00:45:24.449 **ANDREW REESE**

Ok, have a wonderful weekend to everyone, and we will talk again next week.

305

00:45:28.769 --> 00:45:33.929

306

00:45:35.159 --> 00:45:39.960