



**TRANSCRIPT**  
**COMMUNITY FORUM: COVID-19**  
May, 1, 2020 ▪ 10am via WebEx

1 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:00:25.704 --> 00:00:36.685

“Good morning everyone, this is Andy Reese. Sorry we're a little late getting started, it seems that there were some issues with everyone getting logged in, some confusion apparently about our link.

2

00:00:39.564 --> 00:00:53.215

I do want to start. People may be aware that beginning Tuesday of this week, the data that we have is shared on the website, the coronavirus.dc.gov

3

00:00:53.215 --> 00:01:06.894

Website, and so it's available publicly each day. But I'll provide you that data sort of broken down a different way as well. As of yesterday evening,

4

00:01:07.825 --> 00:01:22.165

there were a hundred and thirty five people supported by DDS who have tested positive for COVID-19. You may recall that a week ago

5

00:01:22.165 --> 00:01:33.234

I reported there were eighty six, which sounds like a pretty significant jump. The other thing I reported a week ago, was that starting last week, the guidelines for testing had changed.

6

00:01:33.685 --> 00:01:45.385

So that people without symptoms who were at high risk and had had a contact with someone who had tested positive, could now be tested.

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00:01:45.954 --> 00:01:49.704

And so what we see amongst the hundred and thirty five who

8

00:01:50.844 --> 00:01:51.355

now

9

00:01:51.355 --> 00:01:56.454

have tested positive, if you compare last week to this week,



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00:01:56.454 --> 00:01:59.844

and the data this week out of a hundred and thirty five people,

11

00:01:59.844 --> 00:02:06.775

there were sixty two who have never been hospitalized for a COVID related illness. Last week

12

00:02:06.775 --> 00:02:07.974

that was twenty six.

13 - 14

00:02:08.395 --> 00:02:08.965 - 00:02:09.264 --> 00:02:09.715

So, you know, you know,

15

00:02:09.955 --> 00:02:13.585

while that is a significant jump, from eighty six to one thirty five,

16

00:02:13.824 --> 00:02:18.205

the vast majority of those are people who have tested positive,

17

00:02:18.264 --> 00:02:32.694

but are being monitored at home. As of today we have the sixty two people who have never been hospitalized, who being monitored at home, there are nineteen people who have been discharged who were hospitalized,

18

00:02:32.694 --> 00:02:34.044

but have been discharged.

19

00:02:34.735 --> 00:02:45.775

There were seventeen people who had died, related to, from COVID related illness and thirty seven people are currently hospitalized.



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20

00:02:50.514 --> 00:03:01.735

So, we'll continue to provide updates on that data and provide as much context to it as we can.

~ **Crystal Thomas:** "Okay. Good morning

21

00:03:01.735 --> 00:03:12.235

everyone. First question, Does the Mayor have people with disabilities included in the reopen DC advisory?"

22 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:03:13.705 --> 00:03:17.754

"So, what I do see from reviewing the,

23

00:03:19.435 --> 00:03:33.775

all of the people, is that I don't recognize some of our self-advocates among that group and what the Mayor has done is put out a request for people to give the reopened committee

24

00:03:34.314 --> 00:03:34.914

input.

25

00:03:35.935 --> 00:03:44.185

And so, for people who have access to the Internet, I'd like to provide you with the, we'll type it in as well,

26

00:03:44.395 --> 00:03:45.474

But I'll read it out,

27

00:03:45.504 --> 00:03:52.164

which is the website where you can go to complete a survey to give input to the Mayor,

28

00:03:52.585 --> 00:04:04.314

which one, will also speak to the fact that people with disabilities need to be representing themselves on some of these committees.



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29

00:04:04.405 --> 00:04:10.435

Because the reality is when the Mayor kicked off, and she did just kick it off this week.

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00:04:12.865 --> 00:04:27.175

I think it was Tuesday or Wednesday we had our first meeting when she kicked it off. She's specifically recognized the significant impact that that COVID-19 nineteen is having on people supported by DDS.

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00:04:27.420 --> 00:04:36.355

So, she recognizes this population, but we need to make sure that she hears directly from this population. As the plans for reopening D. C.

32

00:04:36.355 --> 00:04:46.944

are developed, because as we move forward with reopening for people who are at higher risk, the reopening is going to take a longer time.

33 - 34

00:04:47.754 --> 00:04:48.115 - 00:04:48.144 --> 00:04:48.415

And, you know,

35

00:04:48.415 --> 00:04:54.745

it's going to be something that phased in, and while people are aware that our current stay at home order is

36

00:04:54.745 --> 00:04:56.365

in effect through May fifteenth,

37

00:04:57.175 --> 00:04:59.004

those orders are

38

00:04:59.004 --> 00:05:07.105

reevaluated based on the data that we have at the time. The Mayor has authority from the council to extend that until June nine,



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39

00:05:07.644 --> 00:05:09.685

and she'll be making decisions about that,

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00:05:09.985 --> 00:05:15.295

as we get closer to May fifteenth. Based on the data that we have for D.C.

41

00:05:15.295 --> 00:05:21.714

in terms of where things stand and the,.. DC is relying on

42

00:05:22.795 --> 00:05:33.625

guidance that was provided by Hopkins, School of public health, regarding ,that was given to the governors about a framework for how you reopen safely.

43

00:05:34.884 --> 00:05:49.615

So in order to provide input via Internet, you would go to <https://DCGov.seamlessdocs.com>

44

00:05:49.944 --> 00:05:56.365

(<https://dcmgov.seamlessdocs.com>)

45

00:05:56.699 --> 00:06:11.545

<https://dcmgov.seamlessdocs.com/f/ReOpenCommittees>. And "R", "O"

46

00:06:11.545 --> 00:06:14.125

and "C" are capitalized if that matters."

47 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:06:16.285 --> 00:06:30.295

"Repeat it again."

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** "So, that is H. T. T. P. S. colon slash slash DCGov

48

00:06:30.324 --> 00:06:43.105

(D C G O V) dot seamless Docs (S. E. A. M. L. E. S. S. D. O. C. S.)



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49

00:06:43.769 --> 00:06:47.185  
dot com slash

50

00:06:47.814 --> 00:07:00.564  
Lowercase f, slash upper case R, lower case e, Uppercase O, Lowercase P. E. N.

51

00:07:02.064 --> 00:07:15.415  
uppercase C. Lowercase O. M. M. I. T. T. E. S. that is re open committees.

52

00:07:15.954 --> 00:07:29.545  
And you will find committee feedback that you can provide to the committee and indicate that you believe that, there is, and in particular,

53

00:07:29.545 --> 00:07:44.214  
there is a committee that addresses the issue of equity, which I am on and the director of one of our provider agencies is on. But it would really benefit from having a person who's actually a person with a disability who is directly affected by this.

54 - 55

00:07:44.214 --> 00:07:44.665 – 00:07:46.074 --> 00:08:00.894  
So, providing that feedback will help make sure that we have good representation on all these committees as we plan for reopening. And just to be clear with people, the Mayor has pulled together all of these people,

56

00:08:00.985 --> 00:08:02.574  
which is a huge group of people.

57

00:08:02.574 --> 00:08:14.154  
There are, I think, twelve different committees. To develop the plan for reopening, the target date for reopening,

58

00:08:14.785 --> 00:08:25.074  
is going to be decided by the facts and the data on the ground, but the plan will be how things will happen when the city is ready.



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59

00:08:25.435 --> 00:08:26.995

And when the city is ready,

60 - 61

00:08:26.995 --> 00:08:41.695 – 00:08:41.695 --> 00:08:42.294

will be decided by looking at the standards that are established in the Johns Hopkins recommendations about what factors need to be in place in order to begin the reopening.

62 - 63

00:09:42.955 --> 00:09:43.164 - 00:09:43.164 --> 00:09:45.414

So, in providing the information on the data,

64

00:09:45.475 --> 00:09:45.924

I'm sorry,

65

00:09:45.924 --> 00:09:50.215

I did not include our provider data,

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00:09:50.904 --> 00:09:59.485

which currently to date we have had one hundred and nine provider staff who have tested positive for COVID-19,

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00:09:59.485 --> 00:10:02.605

and going forward

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00:10:02.605 --> 00:10:07.375

I expect that we'll be able to provide data on the staff who

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00:10:08.815 --> 00:10:10.345

have tested positive and have,

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00:10:10.524 --> 00:10:13.825

you know what their status in terms of whether they are now working,



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71

00:10:13.945 --> 00:10:24.894

have returned to work etc., and unfortunately we have, to date, had four deaths amongst people, amongst provider staff.”

**72 ~ Crystal Thomas:**

00:10:59.065 --> 00:11:09.715

“How is DDS insuring that residential providers are using techniques such as bulk ordering and community shoppers to minimize COVID nineteen exposure by staff?”

**73 ~ Director Andrew Reese:**

00:11:12.294 --> 00:11:16.075

“That isn't a requirement that we have put in place for the providers.

74

00:11:16.495 --> 00:11:30.235

Each of the provider agencies have developed their own mechanisms for their ordering that some of them may continue to have staff go to, like, Costco to make their purchases.

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00:11:30.504 --> 00:11:31.375

I do know that

76

00:11:31.375 --> 00:11:35.784

in the District of Columbia, there are requirements about going grocery shopping.

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00:11:35.784 --> 00:11:44.995

The measures that are being taken that are for all of us to minimize the possibility of exposure to COVID nineteen and so,

78

00:11:45.054 --> 00:11:45.355

you know,

79

00:11:45.355 --> 00:11:45.595

the,

80

00:11:45.625 --> 00:11:47.304

the providers are dealing with that,





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81

00:11:47.304 --> 00:11:57.325

I expect in the same way that all of us are dealing with it. I do know that we have had some providers where they have sort of sheltered in place.

82

00:11:57.355 --> 00:12:06.774

And in those circumstances, part of that, sheltering in place was having deliveries and, you know, not having any interaction with the outside community.”

83 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:12:31.914 --> 00:12:34.945

“Are there plans to test all DDA staff?”

84 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:12:38.455 --> 00:12:40.254

“I assume that means all provider stuff.

85

00:12:41.455 --> 00:12:44.335

So the testing to date,

86

00:12:44.365 --> 00:12:44.875

as I said

87

00:12:44.875 --> 00:12:45.445

last week,

88

00:12:45.445 --> 00:12:59.424

there was an update and the update in the testing was that testing would be for people who are at high risk who have had an exposure.

89

00:12:59.934 --> 00:13:03.985

There is not at this time, any plan to test staff.



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90

00:13:04.375 --> 00:13:18.054

What there are, though, are a number of different measures in the Mayor's order, including, you know, the requirements that, when staff arrive that they be screened, that their temperatures be taken,

91

00:13:19.044 --> 00:13:26.754

You know, that any staff that are ill or not to report to work, that staff use safe coverings. So there are a number of measures that are being taken.

92

00:13:26.995 --> 00:13:36.235

The thing to keep in mind about testing is that it is a point in time. If you test negative today,

93

00:13:36.629 --> 00:13:50.274

first of all, and these are issues that I'm repeating that have been told us by the EPI staff at DC health. One of the reasons that they're not using this mechanism for, in an attempt to protect people.

94

00:13:50.664 --> 00:14:01.764

One is it tells you what your status is today. Perhaps, there was some percentage of false negatives. The fact that you test negative today does not mean that you will test negative tomorrow.

95

00:14:03.024 --> 00:14:10.284

One of the concerns that they have as well is, if you test negative, you might have the false belief that you are negative.

96

00:14:10.674 --> 00:14:11.514

And therefore,

97

00:14:11.514 --> 00:14:15.835

you might relax some of the measures that everyone needs to be taking,

98

00:14:15.985 --> 00:14:18.235

which is frequent hand washing,



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99

00:14:18.475 --> 00:14:28.465

not touching your face, wearing a face covering, keeping social distance from people, ensuring that there is at least six feet between you and other people,

100

00:14:28.644 --> 00:14:31.495

and at this time, only going out to places

101

00:14:31.495 --> 00:14:32.934

when it is essential to do,

102

00:14:32.934 --> 00:14:45.384

So. Essential includes getting outside when the sun finally returns and doing some exercise, just making sure that you're keeping a good distance from other people when you do

103

00:14:45.384 --> 00:14:50.605

So. But at this time, there is no plan for testing staff."

104 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:15:20.034 --> 00:15:23.034

"Please provide data breakdown by residence type."

105 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:15:24.475 --> 00:15:35.664

"So are you referring, so if you're referring to for the people that we support, I can tell you that for people who have diagnosed, been diagnosed

106

00:15:35.664 --> 00:15:49.195

with COVID nineteen, out of a hundred and thirty five, Forty six of them were in ICFs, two were in host homes, five were in their own homes,

107

00:15:50.424 --> 00:15:55.554

twenty three were in ResHabs, fifty eight in supported living,



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108

00:15:56.034 --> 00:16:06.054

one is currently in a nursing home and just so you're aware the person in the nursing home was tested, but not related to any current COVID symptoms.

109

00:16:06.054 --> 00:16:19.195

So, they're healthy, but they are in a nursing home for other reasons, but have tested positive for COVID. In terms of the people who have been lost to COVID nineteen, nine were in

110

00:16:20.519 --> 00:16:28.075

ICFs, four in supported living, two lived in their own home, one in a host home and one in a ResHab.

111

00:16:28.945 --> 00:16:36.085

And I don't have a breakdown at this time regarding the staff,

112

00:16:36.144 --> 00:16:40.044

But I think I can probably provide that next time.

113

00:16:44.154 --> 00:16:57.174

Yeah, it's the, I, I have it in front of me, but I don't have it broken down so that I could easily just read it out to people in terms of the staff. And the staff, just

114

00:16:57.174 --> 00:17:09.595

so people now, it is a variety of staff, including DSPs, nurses, a transportation person,

115

00:17:10.285 --> 00:17:15.835

um so, it's, it's a variety of different staff.

116

00:17:16.045 --> 00:17:16.884

I think actually,



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117

00:17:16.884 --> 00:17:21.384

the transportation person wasn't working at the time because people aren't going anywhere right now,

118

00:17:21.384 --> 00:17:24.595

but they get report to us that the person had tested positive.

119

00:17:26.160 --> 00:17:26.549

Which,

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00:17:26.545 --> 00:17:36.355

by the way, is something we're finding at DDS as well and the importance for all of us about remembering all of the measures that we need to be taking to protect ourselves,

121

00:17:37.734 --> 00:17:38.065

you know,

122

00:17:38.065 --> 00:17:40.255

in terms of frequent hand washing,

123

00:17:40.914 --> 00:17:42.775

trying not to touch your face,

124

00:17:43.134 --> 00:17:45.865

keeping your distance from people, only going out

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00:17:45.865 --> 00:17:56.125

when it's essential. At DDS we've had staff who have tested positive since beginning to telework full time.



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126

00:17:56.184 --> 00:18:09.234

And so, you know, as we all know, this continues to be something that is, that is at a point where what they refer to as community spread. And so it's important that people are very cautious,

127

00:18:09.480 --> 00:18:13.045

In terms of how we're going about our daily lives.”

128 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:18:26.994 --> 00:18:32.484

“For those of you on the phone that dialed in, we do have the option to text.

129

00:18:33.234 --> 00:18:44.275

So if you have a question, you can text that to, two zero two, five nine, zero, seven six one eight. Two zero two, five nine zero, seven six one eight.”

130

00:18:54.805 --> 00:18:55.164

\*chatter\*

131 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:19:03.535 --> 00:19:08.005

“What guidance is DDS giving to residential providers with respect to helping people

132

00:19:08.005 --> 00:19:13.164

request ballots and complete their voting for the June primary if they wish to participate?”

133 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:19:13.704 --> 00:19:19.404

“You know, we haven't sent that out yet, and thank you for the reminder because we really do need to send it out.

134

00:19:22.464 --> 00:19:23.454

I thought of that,



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135

00:19:23.454 --> 00:19:38.095

as I logged on and sent mine in this week and so it is essential that we get that done sooner rather than later because we do not want people, and we'll reach out to all of our providers today and provide them the

136

00:19:38.095 --> 00:19:41.815

information about how people, in the District anyway,

137

00:19:41.815 --> 00:19:43.164

and we can look up Maryland,

138

00:19:43.164 --> 00:19:53.934

I know that in DC it's, it's, quite easy how you can request a ballot so that you can do a mail in ballot for the June election. So, thank you for that reminder, Carol.

139

00:20:15.265 --> 00:20:28.650

So, I see follow up questions about the issue regarding testing staff. I can just say that at DDS, we rely on guidance that's provided by the public health authorities in terms of testing.

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00:20:29.065 --> 00:20:30.444

And as I said,

141

00:20:30.444 --> 00:20:31.974

I understand the issue of,

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00:20:32.454 --> 00:20:32.724

you know,

143

00:20:32.724 --> 00:20:41.125

that I think it could give people a sense of comfort for a day to know that a staff person had been tested and,



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144  
00:20:41.424 --> 00:20:41.724  
you know,

145  
00:20:41.724 --> 00:20:44.575  
no one who tested positive was coming into work.

146  
00:20:45.444 --> 00:20:48.505  
But what that would require is to test people every single day.

147  
00:20:48.924 --> 00:21:02.305  
Because you don't, it's a point in time, you don't know from that day to the next day where that DSP is after they leave work for the day, you know, even an instance.

148  
00:21:02.305 --> 00:21:16.855  
So that is the reason to that. That is the guidance that we have, at this time, from DC health. I'm cautious about stating any guidance too definitively because, as people learn more as, you know, guidance gets updated.

149  
00:21:16.855 --> 00:21:30.505  
But the guidance, at this time, is that people need to take all of the measures to prevent any possible transmission, to act as though you are already positive.

150  
00:21:30.835 --> 00:21:42.894  
The reason that we are required to wear face coverings when we go out, is not because there's virus floating in the air, and we're concerned about getting it. It is because we need to be cautious.

151  
00:21:42.894 --> 00:21:56.994  
If we're within six feet of someone, when we happen to be outside, that we may have this and not know it or they may have it and not know it. And so the face covering us to keep us from sharing any of that with someone else.





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152

00:21:58.015 --> 00:22:06.625

And, you know, that at this time, those are the measures that are considered the most effective in making sure that there isn't transmission."

153 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:22:51.295 --> 00:22:53.934

"How will DDS ensure people receiving...

154

00:22:58.255 --> 00:23:12.444

Wednesday afternoon, the DC hospital association, updated its guidance for hospital visitor restrictions for COVID nineteen to expressly allow for designated support person for patients with developmental disabilities.

155

00:23:12.720 --> 00:23:16.015

How will DDS ensure people receiving DDA services,

156

00:23:16.045 --> 00:23:20.095

their families and DDA providers are aware of this policy change?

157

00:23:20.484 --> 00:23:29.365

How will DDS work with providers to ensure they are proactively identifying staff willing to serve as a designated support person during a hospital visit

158

00:23:29.365 --> 00:23:31.194

or stay for person they support?"

159 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:23:32.994 --> 00:23:37.224

"So this is true. The hospital association updated their guidance.

160

00:23:37.734 --> 00:23:46.375

And we, as soon as it was updated, we did provide that. We shared that with all of our providers to make sure that they were aware.



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161

00:23:46.404 --> 00:23:59.875

We shared it with all service coordinators and the nurse consultants, so that they were aware, so that they can also share it with the families who may not have a provider. Keeping in mind that,

162

00:23:59.904 --> 00:24:05.335

So, hospitals I think people are generally aware are pretty shut down right

163

00:24:05.335 --> 00:24:19.525

now. They are being extremely cautious about not having people come in who, you know, like I said, you could be asymptomatic so they don't want you coming in for that reason, but they also don't want people coming into contact with a person with COVID.

164

00:24:19.944 --> 00:24:21.595

So, they are being very cautious.

165

00:24:21.954 --> 00:24:36.144

There was recognition by the DC hospital association that there are circumstances where a person with a developmental disability may require support from someone during their hospitalization in order to adequately access their healthcare.

166

00:24:36.414 --> 00:24:51.025

And in those circumstances, we need to make sure that that person can be available. People may know that in our appendix K it included provisions to ensure that providers could have a person with the person in the hospital, when it's needed.

167

00:24:51.295 --> 00:24:58.884

And there wouldn't be the restriction on, you know, that they would be able to be paid for the services provided in that circumstance.

168

00:25:00.204 --> 00:25:13.134

This is not a new issue for our providers in terms of identifying particular people who have a need to have someone with some to help them through the process of hospitalization,



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169  
00:25:13.375 --> 00:25:14.394  
to help them with,

170  
00:25:15.234 --> 00:25:15.625  
you know,

171  
00:25:15.924 --> 00:25:19.765  
adequately receiving the treatment when they're in the hospital.

172  
00:25:20.005 --> 00:25:29.244  
And the providers are well aware of who those people are. The whole reason for needing a person with them in the hospital,

173  
00:25:29.244 --> 00:25:32.815  
is that it is a person who is familiar to them, who can help

174  
00:25:32.815 --> 00:25:33.894  
make sure that any,

175  
00:25:34.315 --> 00:25:34.674  
you know,

176  
00:25:34.674 --> 00:25:36.355  
any treatment can be administered.

177  
00:25:36.535 --> 00:25:38.244  
Because they have the familiar face,

178  
00:25:38.244 --> 00:25:39.234  
or that the person,



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179  
00:25:39.474 --> 00:25:39.775  
you know,

180  
00:25:39.805 --> 00:25:40.825  
except their,

181  
00:25:41.095 --> 00:25:51.805  
their meals because there's a familiar face there. And so our providers are well aware of the importance of this and certain circumstances and how to do it.

182  
00:25:52.045 --> 00:26:04.884  
And this question comes from Morgan. And perhaps, we should have copied Morgan when we sent it out, just to let you know, that we did advise our providers. That quality trust could have advocates available

183  
00:26:04.884 --> 00:26:16.674  
should there be any questions about allowing this to occur. We of course told them, they should call us, but we also did offer, because we had heard from quality trusted, that they could be available to assist with this.

184  
00:26:16.944 --> 00:26:23.815  
So that if there are any questions when a person requires this kind of support that they could get that assistance from, you.

185  
00:26:25.315 --> 00:26:29.785  
And, of course, from us, but we wanted to make sure that they knew they could get it either place."

186 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**  
00:27:05.994 --> 00:27:12.625  
"Out of the fifty eight clients who have tested positive in support living, how many have died?"

187 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**  
00:27:14.335 --> 00:27:26.275  
"I thought I had reviewed that before, but I can review it again. Of the people, of the people we have had who have passed in supported living, there have been four. In ICF

188

00:27:26.275 --> 00:27:34.795

there have been nine, in ResHab and host home, there's been one each and people who live in their own home there have been two.

189

00:28:32.515 --> 00:28:32.724

\*Chatter\*

190 ~ **Kirk Dobson:**

00:28:34.194 --> 00:28:46.134

"Any Providers currently under investigation due to not protecting supported persons in their care from corona virus?"

~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

"So there are two different issues here. Two different sort of kinds of investigation.

191

00:28:47.275 --> 00:29:00.835

One would be with people we support, have there been any allegations of neglect based on a provider not taking the appropriate steps to ensure the person's protection?

192

00:29:01.045 --> 00:29:05.365

So, you know, are providers not doing things that they're supposed to do?

193

00:29:05.694 --> 00:29:06.684

And in that case,

194

00:29:06.684 --> 00:29:12.505

I believe we have had none, in terms of, \*clears throat\* excuse me,

195

00:29:13.914 --> 00:29:28.795

we have had some instances where they've been questions about whether providers are properly implementing the plans that they had in place for operation during the emergency and whether they're



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196  
00:29:28.795 --> 00:29:29.394  
properly,

197  
00:29:29.424 --> 00:29:43.345  
now, whether they're properly following the Mayor's order, and in those cases, our first step is to reach out to the nurse consultant and the quality resource specialist assigned so that they can reach out, check in with the provider,

198  
00:29:43.555 --> 00:29:44.244  
see

199  
00:29:44.755 --> 00:29:46.585  
what steps they have been taking,

200  
00:29:46.674 --> 00:29:48.805  
whether they are in compliance and,

201  
00:29:48.954 --> 00:29:49.375  
you know,

202  
00:29:49.404 --> 00:29:58.884  
whether there would be a need for a neglect referral as well as whether there's need for more technical assistance and providing the technical assistance that's necessary."

203 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**  
00:30:11.005 --> 00:30:25.105  
"What requirements will DDS issue to allow supported living facilities to accept new residence and when will they be issued?"

~ **Winslow Woodland:**  
"There are no specific requirements for accepting a new residence.

204  
00:30:25.105 --> 00:30:26.845  
If a person needs a placement,



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205  
00:30:27.265 --> 00:30:29.845  
we are placing people who need those,

206  
00:30:30.115 --> 00:30:36.174  
but we're also taking steps to ensure that that person gets their choice of placement and they,

207  
00:30:36.474 --> 00:30:38.005  
if they choose supported living,

208  
00:30:38.005 --> 00:30:40.944  
we are prepared and have supported people

209  
00:30:40.944 --> 00:30:42.444  
transitioning to supported living.”

210 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**  
00:31:04.825 --> 00:31:18.865  
“So question from the provider is, how often should we be doing temperature checks?”

~ **Director Andrew Reese:**  
“So, if you're talking about staff who are coming on duty, the Mayors order is very explicit, which is, before anyone comes on duty, you should be checking their temperature.

211  
00:31:19.075 --> 00:31:22.164  
And for the people you support, you should be checking their temperature daily.

212  
00:31:29.394 --> 00:31:43.494  
And there was, for the providers, there was guidance that went out also around care of people who are intermediate care facilities and residential habitation placements that we posted on our website a week ago.

213  
00:31:45.055 --> 00:31:49.255  
And you might want to consult that because it gives very good information



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214  
00:31:49.285 --> 00:31:53.214  
About, it's partly about conservation of

215  
00:31:53.454 --> 00:31:54.234  
of personal

216  
00:31:54.234 --> 00:31:55.164  
protective equipment,

217  
00:31:55.164 --> 00:32:05.035  
but it gives very good information about what personal protective equipment is necessary when, so providers need to make sure that they're using the right equipment at the right times.”

218 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**  
00:32:14.005 --> 00:32:28.914  
“Okay, given a community spread it does seem as though DDS would provide guidance with respect to minimizing outings in the community, for example, by bulk ordering and careful planning rather than last minute piece meal shopping.

219  
00:32:28.944 --> 00:32:34.134  
This is a suggestion.”

~ **Director Andrew Reese:**  
“I think it's a helpful suggestion.

220  
00:32:34.134 --> 00:32:44.335  
I do think, I mean, the challenge of the suggestion is the staff are then going home and living their lives.

221  
00:32:44.634 --> 00:32:54.565  
So, while we can make recommendations about the things that occur while they're at the placement, we still have people who then, you know, start to shop on the way home.





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222

00:32:54.865 --> 00:33:05.515

And I think some of this is also, I'm also I was a little concerned when I saw the beginning of your suggestion about minimizing outings. I think,

223

00:33:06.204 --> 00:33:17.634

our guidance ought to be about ensuring safety during outings. For one, you don't take a group of people shopping, clearly, but we should be getting people out into the sunshine.

224

00:33:18.025 --> 00:33:32.515

We should be helping people, you know, anyone who currently, because we still have our office open, because we received mail. I have some staff who still come to this office. It feels only right to me,

225

00:33:32.664 --> 00:33:45.384

if I expect a staff person to come in, I come in and what I see on my drive home is that there are a lot of people out and about walking, exercising, jogging, riding their bikes.

226

00:33:45.684 --> 00:33:57.025

People should be thinking about in, in, their placements as a group, how can we safely get some exercise you know, get outside, feel good.

227

00:33:57.744 --> 00:34:03.505

I do think your suggestion about shopping, one would hope that they were already there.

228

00:34:03.505 --> 00:34:14.994

My experience with most of the providers is that they've been doing bulk shopping for quite a while because of the economy of it, but we certainly could send that suggestion to them."

229 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:34:41.934 --> 00:34:52.344

"So, what proactive plans has DDA taken to stop the spread, especially in ResHab homes and ICFs where we are seeing the most deaths?"



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230

00:34:54.744 --> 00:35:04.914

Have you looked to what other states are doing has DDS provided any recommendations to providers regarding how to staff their homes in a way that minimizes the spread.”

231 ~ **Winslow Woodland:**

00:35:21.085 --> 00:35:21.355

“Yeah,

232

00:35:21.355 --> 00:35:24.835

we have a staff who was on the NASDDDS,

233

00:35:24.835 --> 00:35:26.275

webcast,

234

00:35:26.275 --> 00:35:28.644

the medical directors around the nation,

235

00:35:29.005 --> 00:35:43.405

and we are going to look at that data compared to what we're doing. And what we're doing is following the recommendations from DC health with regard to people living in congregate

236

00:35:43.405 --> 00:35:58.375

settings and right now our nurses are calling and speaking to all of the provider nurses and getting updates

237

00:35:58.375 --> 00:36:03.684

on people who've been exposed as well as people who tested positive. As the director stated,

238

00:36:03.954 --> 00:36:12.295

there are a large number of people who have tested positive, who are being monitored in their home and we aren't seeing any challenges with that.

239

00:36:13.405 --> 00:36:19.824

They are using universal precautions, we're checking on PPE that people are



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240

00:36:20.940 --> 00:36:31.525

using, and meeting and keeping up with that. We have the QRS staff who are reaching out weekly to discuss with providers and providing guidance where necessary.

241

00:36:31.824 --> 00:36:43.855

We are fortunate to have many qualified professionals working in our ICFs and ResHabs who understand how to support people during public health emergencies.

242

00:36:44.155 --> 00:36:53.724

However, if they don't know, if they need help, we're in their ear, they're in our ear, we're constantly in contact with these people."

243 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:36:56.635 --> 00:37:10.795

"And if I could just add, the other thing recently, you know, we, as, as we said before, and continues to be true. I think Winslow talks at least once every single day to DC health. We are constantly in communication with DC health.

244

00:37:11.065 --> 00:37:15.295

Their guidance was updated last week regarding the ability to test people.

245

00:37:15.445 --> 00:37:29.454

There is recognition by DC health, and they can, of the higher risk to people who are in these settings and they continue to work with us coming up with other ways that we could reduce the risk to these people."

246 – 249 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:38:06.804 --> 00:38:18.414 – 00:38:19.284 - 00:38:19.315 --> 00:38:19.675 -

00:38:19.704 --> 00:38:23.574

"Are there any other questions please type in our chat box or you can text us at 202-590-7618. two zero two, five

~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

"I do see a question up above. Someone,



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250

00:38:23.664 --> 00:38:38.244

it looks more like a suggesting than a question, but it says how about not having people who are positive, not coming to work. So providers are required to give us information about anyone who test positive. We share that information with DC health.

251

00:38:39.114 --> 00:38:40.614

We coordinate with DC Health

252

00:38:40.614 --> 00:38:54.264

so that we're aware of any people who worked for providers who may be positive. DC health and does have their epidemiology staff, that's the staff who are responsible for limiting the spread of the illness,

253

00:38:54.594 --> 00:39:05.335

reach out to a person who has tested positive to make sure that they are taking the necessary steps. We have required all of our providers to provide a list of all their current employees,

254

00:39:05.514 --> 00:39:13.885

so that we know when employees work at more than one agency. So that if one agency learns, they test positive and report to us,

255

00:39:14.724 --> 00:39:22.974

we are able to ensure that DC health takes the necessary steps to ensure that that person is not going to work somewhere else."

**256 ~ Crystal Thomas:**

00:39:44.394 --> 00:39:53.304

"On future calls, would you consider selecting one or two of the obvious burning issues and addressing those at the top of the hour, before taking Q & A?"

**257 ~ Director Andrew Reese:**

00:39:54.775 --> 00:39:56.815

"I'll just say, great minds think alike.



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258

00:39:56.965 --> 00:40:11.755

So, I was actually this week thinking about that, especially because on our provider call today, we have so many updates that I had sent to a couple of people here that they need to start the call by providing those updates in the call.

259

00:40:11.934 --> 00:40:23.605

So I think that's a really good suggestion for this call as well. And maybe what we can say to folks is, you have suggestions about what that sort of presentation at the beginning should be, let us know.

260

00:40:23.784 --> 00:40:33.085

But I do think that's that is a really good idea, because, you know, as we go, it's not just answering questions, but also giving out information and making sure.

261

00:40:33.264 --> 00:40:38.994

I think it's important that we're doing that also just so that people can recognize

262

00:40:39.985 --> 00:40:52.045

everything that is happening and that we can sort of communicate what those burning issues are, and how we're dealing with some, because for those of us who are in the middle of this dealing with it day to day.

263

00:40:52.704 --> 00:41:06.505

I will confess that at times we don't do as good a job of letting people know all of the information that we're gathering and dealing with each day and that is what these calls are supposed to be about. So that's a great suggestion.

264

00:41:06.505 --> 00:41:09.505

And we'll make sure that we start next week with that."

265 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:41:12.534 --> 00:41:23.905

"Will you take input before the call on what burning issue stakeholders would like you to address?"



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~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

“Absolutely. That’s yeah, you may have typed that before I said it, but absolutely.

266

00:41:23.905 --> 00:41:33.445

So, what people have suggestions about what burning issues we should, we should address, you know, please submit them along with any questions you have.

267

00:41:35.489 --> 00:41:41.215

Because I know that right now, as I say, for the provider call, we have a number of things we want to talk about today.

268

00:41:43.375 --> 00:41:53.965

About testing, about our appendix K, our monitoring and so I do think that for this call, we should be thinking about the same thing.”

269 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:42:05.934 --> 00:42:17.065

“There are many reports from around the country of an adequate for direct support professionals and others, providing person to person support for those with IDD. What does the situation DC? Do

270

00:42:17.065 --> 00:42:27.505

providers have enough equipment?”

~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

“So we always, on our provider call, have someone from D. C. Health, from

271

00:42:27.840 --> 00:42:31.284

Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Administration,

272

00:42:31.554 --> 00:42:33.085

who is responsible,



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273

00:42:33.114 --> 00:42:47.635

who works directly with all of our providers, they, providers have given them the inventory of what they have and what their needs are and works with them to make sure that as they need PPE,

274

00:42:48.324 --> 00:42:49.585

it's available to them.

275

00:42:50.005 --> 00:42:58.284

Our quality resource specialists, reach out weekly to providers to check in with them about the inadequacy of their supplies.

276

00:42:59.635 --> 00:43:08.184

We do hear concerns from providers about the adequacy. Generally, what it has worked out to,

277

00:43:08.184 --> 00:43:15.625

it seems to me, from when we follow up to look into

278

00:43:15.625 --> 00:43:25.405

It, has been that a provider is expressing concern that they don't have enough on hand for what their needs will be and those providers who are expressing that concern,

279

00:43:25.405 --> 00:43:37.735

That's great, because they're wanting to plan ahead, but HEPRA, Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Administration prioritizes

280

00:43:38.670 --> 00:43:41.034

current day provider needs in terms of,

281

00:43:42.054 --> 00:43:48.114

but also hears from them what their future needs are and is doing their very best and today,



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282

00:43:48.144 --> 00:43:48.565

I think,

283

00:43:48.565 --> 00:43:50.094

doing well,

284

00:43:50.304 --> 00:43:53.215

and making sure that providers do have what they need,

285

00:43:54.355 --> 00:43:55.465

but they continue,

286

00:43:55.704 --> 00:43:56.034

you know,

287

00:43:56.034 --> 00:44:00.324

anyone that watches the news knows that this is a struggle across the country.

288

00:44:01.135 --> 00:44:15.775

I will also give kudos to our provider coalition that got together and did an order together so that they could have some more supplies available to them outside what the district

289

00:44:15.775 --> 00:44:18.295

provides through DC health.

290

00:44:27.025 --> 00:44:41.304

So it is now eleven o'clock, and I know that the Mayor has a press briefing at eleven o'clock, and I want to make sure that people have the opportunity to listen to that. Thanks for your questions and your suggestions today, and I will talk to you next week."