



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Human Services
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services
500 Summer Street NE
Salem, OR 97301



June 12, 2020

To Personal Support Workers:

The most important thing to the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) is the safety, health and well-being of the people we serve and those who provide care for them.

Local and state public health entities need our help to identify people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) who have tested positive or are presumed by a physician to have COVID-19. This is part of a public health and safety effort, and we need to protect our community by identifying where Oregonians with I/DD are contracting this disease. Without our support, public health does not know whether a person testing positive has I/DD. We are working to engage early and provide supportive action to keep people safe.

You may feel uncertain about sharing information to support this effort. ODDS understands the importance of protecting Personal Health Information (PHI) for both individuals served and those who provide care for them. During the notification process outlined below, ODDS will take all necessary actions to protect the information of the Personal Support Worker (PSW), while notifying individuals accessing services of exposures that could impact their health.

These are the actions required of you to keep our communities healthy and safe:

If you have a confirmed case of COVID-19 or if you have been told by a medical practitioner that it is likely that you have COVID-19 and to remain home and quarantine:

You must notify the Case Management Entity, or case manager of the person you support. You must also notify ODDS by emailing: ODDS.Fieldliaison@dhsosha.state.or.us and providing the date that you tested positive or were told you likely have COVID-19 by a medical practitioner and the names of people you have worked with in the past 14 days.

If you have a confirmed case of COVID-19 or are told that it is likely that you have COVID-19 and you do not live with a supported individual:

- You may not return to work until:
 - directed by a physician and/or
 - for at least 14 days after testing positive for COVID-19 and/or
 - at least 72 hours with no symptoms.

“Safety, health and independence for all Oregonians”
An Equal Opportunity Employer

DHS 2441 (6/20) PSW COVID-19

- If you are unable to work due to COVID-19, information about hardship leave for Personal Support Workers is available at: <https://www.orhomecaretrust.org/hardship-pto/>
- **Failure to stop working and continuing to put the health and safety of the individual(s) you support at risk may result in a termination of your provider number**

If you live with a supported individual:

- Consider implementing a plan for quarantining within the home.
- Coordinate with employer and case management entity on backup planning for continued supports if you are unable to work or if you plan to quarantine.

If you support an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 or if the individual was told by a medical practitioner that it is likely that they have COVID-19:

You must notify the Case Management Entity, the case manager of the person being supported, and your employer. You must also notify ODDS by emailing at:

ODDS.Fieldliaison@dhsosha.state.or.us and providing the individuals full name, date of birth, date they were tested or told by the medical practitioner that they likely have COVID-19.

Also follow this guidance:

- Follow all physician requirements for the supported individual and all PSWs who have had contact with individual, including isolation.
- Follow physician guidance on keeping medical appointments.
- Support the individual in limiting/restricting visitors other than those necessary to ensure care as directed by local public health.
- Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) while supporting the individual
 - If you need PPE (*gloves or masks*), contact the case manager of the person you support. PSWs may also submit a request for PPE to the Oregon Home Care Commission by completing an electronic form on SEIU's website at <https://seiu503.tfaforms.net/622> or by emailing OHCC.CustomerRelations@dhsosha.state.or.us. If you are unable to get PPE, document this on your timesheet.
- Encourage the individual to wear a face covering or surgical mask
- Support the individual with gathering needed supplies for the isolation period
- Support the individual with moving to alternative setting if applicable
- Support the individual with keeping a log of all persons who interact with individual (*including other PSWs, Direct Support Professionals, etc.*)
- Support the individual in using electronic communication for family and friends as appropriate.

Always follow Public Health/Oregon Health Authority direction and [OHA guidance for in-home workers.](#)

Thank you for helping to ensure health and safety during this time.

Sincerely,



Lilia Teninty

Director

Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

Information on COVID-19, including ODDS policies and resources, is available online and in multiple languages at: <https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/ODDS-COVID-19-Information.aspx>

Arabic

تتوفر المعلومات حول مرض كوفيد 19، وبضمنها سياسات وموارد مكتب خدمات الإعاقات النمائية على الانترنت وبعده لغات على الموقع: <https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/ODDS-COVID-19-Information.aspx>

Russian

Информация о COVID-19, включая внутренний распорядок и ресурсы отдела ODDS, доступна в Интернете и на нескольких языках на веб-сайте:

<https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/ODDS-COVID-19-Information.aspx>

Simplified Chinese

有关新冠肺炎病毒多种语言版本的信息（包括 ODDS 政策和资源），请浏览网站：<https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/ODDS-COVID-19-Information.aspx>

Somali

Macluumaadka ku saabsan cudurka COVID-19, oo ay ku jiraan siyaasadaha iyo ilaha ODDS, ayaa laga helayaa internet-ka iyo iyaga oo ku qoran luqaddo badan:

<https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/ODDS-COVID-19-Information.aspx>

Spanish

Hay información disponible en línea, incluyendo políticas y recursos de la ODDS, y en múltiples idiomas en: <https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/ODDS-COVID-19-Information.aspx>

Traditional Chinese

您可在下列網站找到多語言版本的 COVID-19 相關資訊，包括 ODDS 政策及資源：

<https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORSDISABILITIES/DD/Pages/ODDS-COVID-19-Information.aspx>

Vietnamese

Thông tin về COVID-19, bao gồm các chính sách và tài nguyên ODDS, có sẵn trực tuyến và bằng nhiều ngôn ngữ tại: <https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORSDISABILITIES/DD/Pages/ODDS-COVID-19-Information.aspx>