



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

MEMORANDUM

OCDD-P-22-002
OCDD-R-22-001
OCDD-SC-22-002

DATE: January 14, 2022

TO: Local Governing Entities
OCDD Support Coordination Agencies
OCDD Provider Agencies
Fiscal Employer Agents (FEAs)
Self-Direction Employers

FROM: Julie Foster Hagan

SUBJECT: COVID-19 PHE Exceptions

The US Department of Health and Human Services declared a Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19 on January 31, 2020. Because of the ongoing PHE, in March 2020 the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) requested and received certain program exceptions to help keep families and participants safe. These exceptions will last **until six months** after the **end of the PHE**. **OCDD will notify you** when we receive information on the PHE expiration, and will tell you **the end date (e.g., 6 months post PHE end date) for COVID-19 PHE E Exceptions**.

Appendix K EXCEPTIONS	WAIVERS IMPACTED
Conversion of Vocational program hours in the current plan of care to In-home supports	NOW(IFS) ROW (CLS) SW(in home Respite)(20 hours)
Additional 20 hours per week of family support due to school closures	Children's Choice
Allowing the participant and direct service worker (DSW) to live in the same household	NOW(IFS) ROW (CLS) SW(In home Respite) Children's Choice (FS)
Allowing legally responsible relatives as DSWs, including parents and spouses	NOW, ROW, SW, CC
Allowing an abbreviated DSW training prior to work	All waivers
Hazard pay for individuals working with participants exposed to or infected with COVID-19 per Hazard Pay Policy	All OCDD waivers
Virtual visits for initial, quarterly and annual meetings with support coordination	all OCDD waivers

and providers	
Waive 30 day continuity of care rule	ROW and NOW

16 hour rule: The 16 hour rule is not in effect during this time.

Plan of Care Updates: OCDD is allowing an extension of current prior authorization beyond the plan of care year without penalty

Updated Provider Attachments Required: OCDD is not extending acceptance of prior year Provider attachments for the Plan of Care. All provider attachments were required to be updated in the first quarter of 2021. All annual plans of care submitted after December 31, 2020 will require updated provider attachments.

90L FORMS: Expiring 90Ls must be updated **when the plan of care is due**, prior to holding the planning meeting. However, **90L forms that are expiring before the new CPOC**, and that **cannot be obtained** from the participant's physician (by office visit or telemedicine), can be substituted with a current statement of approval (SOA). If you have questions concerning specific 90Ls for participants please bring them to the attention of OCDD waiver staff. Current medications and a current diagnosis should be documented on the plan of care, as well as the reason the updated 90L could not be obtained. This is also the exception for the new workups: if you cannot obtain the 90L at this time use the current SOA.

This guidance supersedes the *Appendix K Exceptions Extended Memorandum* (OCDD-P-21-018, OCDD-R-21-005, OCDD-SC-21-008) issued May 10, 2021.

Please share this updated extension with ALL waiver families and participants in your care. If you have any questions please send them to OCDD-HCBS@la.gov. As always, thank you for your support in these difficult times.