



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

MEMORANDUM

OCDD-P-20-023

DATE: April 21, 2020

TO: ICF/IID Providers

FROM: Julie Foster Hagan, Assistant Secretary,
Office for Citizen with Developmental Disabilities
Cecile Castillo, RN, Deputy Assistant Secretary
Health Standards Section

SUBJECT: ICF/IID Guidance on COVID-19

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has been working to keep all providers informed throughout this event, and all communications with Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) Provider agencies can be located at <http://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/newsroom/detail/5407>. We strongly encourage you to routinely check this site, as updated information is posted here after it is sent to provider agencies. At this time, LDH is providing additional guidance to ICF/IID facilities in responding to COVID19 event, as the Department is aware that you are supporting a vulnerable population.

The primary symptoms for people with COVID-19 virus are as follows:

- Elevated temperature;
- Labored breathing/shortness of breath;
- Coughing;

You should establish procedures to routinely monitor individuals you support for these symptoms, especially if you are supporting individuals who are not able to effectively communicate to you that they are not feeling well. If any of these symptoms are observed, you should immediately contact the individual's nurse or health care practitioner for guidance on the most appropriate and recommended health care intervention for this particular individual based upon their clinical history and current presentation of symptomology. The decision as to who and when someone is tested for COVID-19 is made by a medical professional after careful examination of the patient. The result is indicative of the clinical status of the individual at the time the specimen was obtained. Current testing is not recommended for asymptomatic individuals because testing for asymptomatic individuals only provides information about their status at the time the sample was collected. This negative result likely leads to diminished observations of any early signs and symptoms of the virus. This is why it is extremely important to ensure that the screening of all individuals remains according to established CDC guidelines.

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LDH Health Standards Section has previously submitted "Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of COVID in ICF/IIDs

(http://ldh.la.gov/assets/medicaid/hss/docs/Coronavirus_2019/MEMO_ICF_PRTF_04012020.rtf), which provides information on best practices for providers during this event.

The LDH Office of Public Health (OPH) is the lead agency for addressing the needs of the public in regards to infectious disease. You may be contacted from OPH, including their epidemiology team, throughout this event. You are expected to respond to surveys and requests for information from OPH.

If someone you are supporting tests positive for COVID-19, you should be contacted by the lab/medical doctor responsible for obtaining or ordering the testing. If you have questions about the appropriate course of action to be taken, you can contact your regional office of public health or contact the state-wide hotline at (800) 256-2748. Additionally, you are responsible for notifying an individual's responsible party/legal guardian, if appropriate, any time an individual has a change in condition, and this includes identification of symptoms and need for testing/testing results for COVID-19. If an individual is "under investigation," which means they have symptoms and test results are pending or if an individual tests positive, other individuals and staff should be advised that heightened protocols should be taken to ensure adherence to all established CDC and infection control guidelines for isolation, monitoring protocols, handwashing, sanitizing, and use of PPE. You should not give out individual specific information regarding medical information for individuals supported.

Also, please note that beginning March 2, 2020 multiple memos and guidance were forwarded to ICF providers and have been re-attached to this memo for your review. You should read all this guidance thoroughly. The previously issued memos include:

LDH MEMO to All Providers re: Visitor Update 3-13-2020

Infection Control Training 3-13-2020

qso-20-17-all 3-10-2020

Coronavirus Memo to Providers 3-5-2020

CDC LTCF 3-2-2020

COVID-19 Protocol-ICF Recommendations 3-15-2020

Memo from OCDD: OCDD-EXEMPTIONS-COVID19 3-18-2020

LDH Notice on Extension of Provider Memos till 4.30.20 4-7-2020

Thank you.



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