
Office of Developmental Programs (ODP), Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

At-A-Glance

Level of Community Transmission Using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID Data Tracker

Updated: October 20, 2021

This Guidance has been updated to align with the **CDC COVID Data Tracker**, as a primary source for monitoring the level of community transmission of COVID-19. The CDC COVID Data Tracker uses four (4) levels of community transmission as follows:



This document lists ODP functions and provides operational guidance in consideration of the level of community transmission. Please monitor changes in the level of county community transmission, which is updated on a weekly basis at the following link: [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)

Anyone who is completing the following ODP functions and has a concern or question, should contact their respective ODP Regional Office.

ODP Function	<u>All Levels of Community Transmission</u> Operation Implementation
General Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waiver flexibilities in Appendix K are anticipated to extend 6 months from the end date of the federal public health emergency. ODP will continue to monitor the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and update guidance as needed.• Continue to comply with the recommendations for wearing face coverings for every individual age two and older. Guidance can be found in ODP Announcement 21-048: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): COVID-19 Update--Guidance for Infection Control and Mitigation for ODP Home and Community Based Services Providers.

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ODP Function	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>All Levels of Community Transmission</u> Operation Implementation</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For providers licensed pursuant to 55 Pa Code Chapters 2380, 2390, 6400 or 6500, staff may continue to take the Modified Medication Course in place of the Standard Course until December 31, 2021. Please review ODP Announcement 20-114.
<p>Compliance with 55 Pa. Code Chapters 2380, 2390, 6100, 6400, and 6500</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursuant to Act 73 of 2021, the suspension of various regulatory provisions under the state disaster emergency declaration that are currently in effect and which were set to expire on September 30, 2021, are now extended until further notice. A list of the regulations that were suspended in whole or in part and their current status is available here.
<p>Licensing Inspections</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspections will be completed in-person. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providers will be given at least 30 days' notice prior to ODP commencing an on-site annual inspection. Licensing staff will follow the provider's COVID-19 symptom screening process. Licensing staff will continue to follow CDC and Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) guidance for personal protective equipment (PPE) and mask use.
<p>Quality Assessment and Improvement (QA&I)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ODP implemented an <i>interim</i> QA&I process for Year 2 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022. Quality assessment activities will be conducted remotely, including individual interviews.
<p>Independent Monitoring for Quality (IM4Q)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IM4Q will be conducted remotely until December 31, 2021. The Department will reevaluate whether in-person interviews may resume prior to that date.

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ODP Function	<u>All Levels of Community Transmission</u> Operation Implementation
Supports Intensity Scale (SIS™) and PA Plus Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessments will be conducted remotely until further notice as stated in Updated ODP Announcement 20-063.
Administrative Entity (AE) Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provider orientation classes are conducted remotely. ODP encourages large meetings continue to be conducted remotely given the contact with vulnerable populations.

ODP Function	<u>Low/Moderate/Substantial Community Transmission</u> Operation Implementation
Investigations Completed by Certified Investigators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providers must continue face-to-face investigations by certified investigators. Providers must continue to follow instructions for screening and mask use. Investigations should be in-person whenever possible and appropriate. If pre-interview screening results lead to a determination that an individual who needs to be interviewed has tested positive for COVID-19, is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, or has had contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct the interview remotely (video methods are preferred but telephone interviews can be conducted if video methods are not feasible) and obtain written statements. Coordinate investigation activities completed by other entities such as protective services or law enforcement.
AE Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The functions outlined in the AE Operating Agreement can resume to pre-COVID-19 operations.

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ODP Function	<u>Low/Moderate/Substantial Community Transmission</u> Operation Implementation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AEs can resume face-to-face intake and eligibility determination activities.
Supports Coordination Organizations (SCOs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face-to-face Supports Coordination (SC) activities should be conducted when the SC is able to effectively and safely conduct wellness checks and monitoring. When planning for face-to-face SC activities, consideration should be given to the participant or family’s preferences for face-to-face SC activities. During face-to-face activities, all instructions for screening for COVID-19 and mask use must be followed.

ODP Function	<u>High Community Transmission</u> Operation Implementation
Investigations Completed by Certified Investigators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified investigations should be conducted using remote methods whenever possible. Video methods are preferred, but telephone interviews can be conducted if video methods are not feasible.
AE Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AEs will continue to engage with Community Participation Support (CPS) providers with a CPS program located in a county with a high level of community transmission, will track facility closures and projected reopening dates, and will work with providers to develop reopening plans. • AEs that are located in counties with high community transmission may only conduct remote intake and eligibility determinations.
Supports Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCs should use remote means (telephone or video conferencing solutions) for all SC activities. Face-to-face monitoring should be conducted only when the SC has

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ODP Function	<u>High Community Transmission</u> Operation Implementation
Organizations (SCOs)	been unable to effectively conduct wellness checks and remote monitoring to ensure health and safety. During face-to-face contact, all instructions for screening for COVID-19 and mask use must be followed.