

## Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):

# Now Available: Version 3 of the Operational Guide for the Adult Autism Waiver During the Federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

## ODP Announcement 22-015

### AUDIENCE:

All Stakeholders

### PURPOSE:

To announce updated operational guidance to implement services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### DISCUSSION:

The Operational Guide for the Adult Autism Waiver (AAW) has been updated to reflect current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Additionally, guidance has been added regarding regulatory compliance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The purpose of the Operational Guide is to provide guidance to Providers, Supports Coordination Organizations, and ODP to ensure adherence with current federal and state guidance.

The Operational Guide applies only to participants impacted by COVID-19. Examples of participants impacted by COVID-19 include participants impacted due to staffing

shortages, a COVID-19 diagnosis for the participant or a participant's housemate or caregiver, and closures of service locations (residential homes, Day Habilitation service locations, etc.). For any requirement not listed in the Operational Guide, refer to the current approved AAW.

**CONTACT:**

Please direct any questions about this announcement to your respective regional office of the Bureau of Supports for Autism and Special Populations.

**ATTACHMENT:**

- Operational Guide for the Adult Autism Waiver During the Federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (Version 3)

**OBSOLETE DOCUMENTS:**

- ODP Announcement 20-105 – *Version 2 of Operational Guide for Appendix K: Emergency Preparedness and Response for the Adult Autism Waiver*
- ODP Announcement 20-019 – *Operational Recommendations for Providers of Intellectual Disability and Autism Services*
- ODP Announcement 20-020 – *Montgomery, Delaware, Bucks and Chester County Mitigation Plan: ODP Essential Functions*
- ODP Announcement 20-022 – *Closure of Older Adult, Adult Training, and Prevocational Facilities*
- ODP Announcement 20-028 – *Post Acute and Long-Term Care COVID-19 Toolkit*
- ODP Announcement 20-029 – *Auto Authorizations for Residential without Day Services*
- ODP Announcement 20-032 – *Temporary Modifications to Waiver and Regulatory Requirements to Support Adequate Staffing*

- ODP Announcement 20-047 – *Facilitating Personal Relationships when Visitors are Restricted in Residential Settings*
- ODP Announcement 20-062 – *ODP/Administrative Entity (AE) Facility Based Community Participation Supports Readiness Tool for COVID-19*
- ODP Announcement 20-067 – *ODP/Administrative Entity (AE) In-Home and Community Supports and Companion Services Readiness Tool for COVID-19*
- ODP Announcement 20-087 – *Managing Situations Where Masks are Not Worn During Provision of Direct Services*