



# Alianza

## FAMILY SERVICES™

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Date: June 8, 2020	From: Daniel DePaula, Program Director
To: AFS Employees, Caregivers and Guardians	Re: COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

We have received guidance from the metro DDS office regarding the “re-opening” of waiver services. Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are the most vulnerable to COVID-19. Therefore, there is ***no change*** to current directives and limitations until at least 06/30/2020.

- On March 20, 2020, DDS restricted home access to all visitors including non-medical health care providers, vendors, case managers, consultants, clinicians, therapists, behavior support consultants, families, friends, and guardians. These restrictions remain unchanged and are still effective.
- Staying home and limiting visitors remains one of the most effective strategies to reduce and/or stop the spread of COVID-19.
- If a guardian or family member decides to “pick-up,” visit or remove an individual from a ***supported living home***, they are increasing the potential exposure of COVID-19 to the individual, caregivers and other housemate(s). If Guardians and/or family members decide to remove someone from services (for any length of time) the individual will be required to remain with that individual or family member for a period of 10-14 days and not be able to return until the individual has been tested and receives a negative COVID-19 test result.

DDS is working with many stakeholders to develop a plan to move forward and deliver services in a COVID world. One change effective 07/01/2020 is all DD Waiver traditional residences must have access to the internet. Since the internet will be considered a necessary utility, please let us know if you don't currently have this service or need assistance finding internet services.

Automation and virtual meetings are becoming the new normal. Alianza now provides online progress notes. Paperless is a better way to document your essential care with guided notes which are easy and fast. These notes are linked to electronic invoices so you never have to mail, fax or make a trip to the office in order to submit your paperwork. If you would like more information about our online notes, please contact your Service Coordinator.

One casualty of COVID-19 is VSA (Very Special Arts) Day Program as they will no longer provide services. Please be aware that Alianza does provide customized community supports which is a nice alternative to facility-based day program. We can provide individual or small group community activities once stay at home restrictions are lifted. If you have questions about our community supports, please contact your Service Coordinator.