



# South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

**Emergency Operations Center (EOC): [EOC@DDSN.SC.GOV](mailto:EOC@DDSN.SC.GOV); 803-898-9754**  
**SITUATIONAL REPORT ISSUE NO. 10 DATE: APRIL 3, 2020**  
**EVENT COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

## **I. DDSN Workgroups:**

Please be reminded of the upcoming standing workgroup meetings. These meetings will be held via Skype on their regularly scheduled dates as noted below. The meeting invitations include a Skype link.

**Finance Workgroup Meeting:** April 7, 2020 1:00-3:00

**Case Management Workgroup Meeting:** April 8, 2020 10:00-12:00

**EI Workgroup Meeting:** April 8, 2020 1:00-3:00

**Quality Management Workgroup Meeting:** April 24, 2020 10:00-12:00

**Quarterly DSN Executive Directors/CEO's Qualified Providers Meeting:** April 16, 2020 2:00-3:00

## **II. SC DHHS 1135 Approval: ([Click Here](#))**

Portions of the section [1135 waiver application submitted by SC DHHS to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#) seeking a variety of administrative flexibilities received approval on March 31, 2020. See the linked information above for more details.

## **III. SCDHHS Medicaid Coronavirus Disease 19 Update Webinar: ([Click Here](#))**

As a reminder, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) is hosting a webinar where it will update Healthy Connections Medicaid providers on the agency's response to coronavirus disease. Information regarding item "II" above will be included. The webinar will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, April 6, 2020. Click the link above for more information.

## **IV. Timeline Extension from SC Labor and Licensing Regulation (SCLLR):**

From the Governor's Office - SCLLR recognizes the toll that this virus is taking on South Carolinians. Director Farr and her team extended the license renewal deadline for licenses, registrations and permits scheduled to renew during the months of April, May, June, July and August. The new renewal deadline will now be extended to September 30, 2020. Additionally, continuing education requirements may be obtained throughout the entirety of this extended renewal period. Affected licenses, registrations and permits are listed at <https://llr.sc.gov/renewalupdates/>.

Renewals will be open on their regularly-scheduled dates if licensees want to renew, but they are not required to do so. Renewing at the regularly-scheduled time may be preferable for those licensees who are required to provide proof of current licensure to other regulatory authorities or to employers. For additional information, you can visit the LLR website here, <https://governor.sc.gov/news/2020-04/sc-llr-extends-renewal-deadlines-during-health-emergency>.

**V. [DDS Memo Regarding Visitor Restrictions for DDSN Residential Settings: \(Click Here\)](#)**

DDSN reminds residential providers of existing restricted visitation on Community Residential Care Facilities (CRCF) and Institutional Care Facilities (ICF) issued by Executive Order and DHEC guidance. Additionally, today DDSN expanded this guidance to recommend restricting visitation at all DDSN licensed facilities.

**VI. DSN Board Employee Bonus Rules Relaxed:**

SCDDSN has set forth requirements that Providers must follow when implementing bonus/incentive plans. Due to the COVID-19 national & state emergency, SCDDSN's goal is to provide interim procedures to give Providers as much flexibility as possible. SCDDSN is permitting Providers the latitude to develop compensation plans, to include bonuses/incentives, without requiring SCDDSN approval. Providers should ensure that any bonus/incentive structure they implement is documented, fair, and reasonable. Any payments should be focused towards those staff that are on the front lines working with consumers or staff that have work demands otherwise directly impacted by this pandemic. An example may include the need to enhance the pay for staff working in a home where a consumer or staff has tested positive for the virus. You may find it necessary to enhance pay in a variety of situations to ensure you can attract and retain staff needed to serve the consumers in your care.

DDSN cautions providers to ensure that you properly report compensation (including gift cards and other non-cash gifts) to all parties - IRS, SCDOR, SCDEW, Workers Comp, PEBA, etc. Also, please ensure costs are charged to the proper program and not to administrative costs.

Providers will be notified when the SCDDSN's bonus/incentive plan approval requirement is restored. Please let us know if you have any questions.

**VII. [Interim Contract Compliance Procedures for Residential and Day/Employment Services: \(Click Here\)](#)**

DDSN has issued interim procedures for contract compliance for Residential and Day/Employment services during the COVID-19 State of Emergency. DDSN will continue to provide guidance as specific situations arise.

**VIII. Tuberculosis Screening: (Click Here)**

On April 3, DDSN received notification that the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) is suspending tuberculin skin testing for facility staff prior to their date of hire, initial resident contact, or initial patient contact, when they meet conditional criteria. DDSN will follow this directive and waive TB Testing Requirements during the current COVID-19 State of Emergency in conjunction with the DHEC criteria.

**IX. Helpful Information from the CDC Regarding Infection Control:**

The CDC has issued guidance related to safety precautions and protocols for avoiding the spread of COVID-19. Please see the guidance and recommendations linked below:

- [CDC Long-Term Care Facilities: Preventing the Spread of COVID-19s](#)
- [CDC Resources for Hospitals and Healthcare Professionals Preparing for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed 2019-nCoV](#)

- [CDC Interim Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Known or Under Investigation for 2019-nCoV in a Healthcare Setting](#)
- [Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\) COVID-19 Guidance](#)