



South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

Emergency Operations Center (EOC): EOC@DDSN.SC.GOV; 803-898-9754

SITUATION REPORT DATE: MARCH 25, 2020

EVENT: COVID-19 PANDEMIC

I. Draft Interim Policy for Maintaining DDSN Residential Setting Licensure:

Please review the DRAFT Policy for Maintaining DDSN Residential Setting License at the following link: ([Click Here](#)) . Please provide all feedback to DDSN through the EOC@ddsn.sc.gov by close of business Thursday, March 26th.

The DRAFT policy temporarily suspends annual on-site licensing reviews. However, providers will be required to complete a setting self-assessment tool, which when approved by DDSN will result in a provisional license for the duration of the COVID-19 National Emergency.

II. Draft Interim Policy for Licensing Follow-up Reviews:

Please review the below DRAFT Interim Policy for Licensing Follow-up Review and provide all feedback to DDSN through the EOC@ddsn.sc.gov by close of business Thursday, March 26th.

DRAFT Interim Policy: All license reviews with a pending follow-up review will have their follow-up review considered complete upon Alliant approving their Plan of Correction with two exceptions. These two exceptions are:

1. Alliant will conduct a desk review specific to all Class II citations (failure of organizational safeguards which could put the individual's physical, emotional, and financial well-being in jeopardy).
2. Alliant will conduct a desk review if DDSN Quality Management identifies a pattern of significant deficiencies in Class III citations impacting the operations of the setting.

III. Interim Guidance for Early Intervention Providers: ([Click Here](#))

While no new information has been communicated by DHHS regarding IFSP or transition activities, DDSN has put together some guidance for FSP's, CBA's and SC activity.

IV. Interim Guidance for Employment Service Providers: ([Click Here](#))

DDSN Staff have put together some guidance for Employment providers in order to offer some suggestions on activity that could be happening while maintaining social distancing. Includes information on virtual supports, unemployment, social security, and follow along supports.

V. Interim Guidance for Day Program Providers: ([Click Here](#))

DDSN Staff have put together some guidance for Day Program providers that may be providing services in alternate locations. A new ISP template has also been posted to the shared library in Therap for providers to use (if desired) as an interim plan of support for individuals in these situations.

VI. Cyber Security Awareness: ([Click Here](#))

VII. Families First Coronavirus Response Act Update:

DDSN continues to request that providers seek their own legal and tax advice related to this Act. We have identified a few free resources that you might want to reference as you chart a course to comply with these rules. There are unique rules for public agencies vs. other agencies. There are rules related to employer size if you are not considered a public agency. There are unique rules related to eligible employees – to include individuals compensated in your sheltered workshops. There are unique rules related to claiming tax credits. It is highly recommended you seek professional assistance to the extent you feel it is necessary to ensure your entity is compliant. SCDDSN will assist where possible with the limited resources we have at our disposal.

[Mark Knuckles Guide](#)

[USDOL](#)

VIII. Payment Processing:

DDSN has received various inquiries about the impact of the COVID virus on our payment processes here at Central Office. We have identified essential employees that are still working to ensure that all providers are still paid within the timeframes they would otherwise be accustomed to. You should see no impact on your cash flows from that perspective. Please contact Kelley Anderson at kelly.anderson@ddsn.sc.gov or email financial.techsupport@ddsn.sc.gov if you have questions or concerns about your payments.

IX. Case Management & Early Intervention 2% COLA Funding:

DDSN is in the process of finalizing the payment to providers for our State appropriated funds to cover the period July 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019. You will be receiving communications very shortly as well as your payment. This payment will be made to all providers (Boards and QPLs) billing for Waiver Case Management and/or Early Intervention (including BabyNet) services during the first six months of this fiscal year. Be on the lookout for this information and payment.

X. Family Connections of SC:

Family Connection of South Carolina is still open to assist families. Our Family Information Center is working remotely with approved technology to continue to provide support, information, and in some cases, virtual in-person visits. Please send to any staff as a resource for families.

Current Resources Available from Family Connection of South Carolina:

Family Information Center: 1-800-578-8750 English

1-888-808-7462 Spanish

We are available by telephone, Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00pm;

We are still accepting referrals online.

We will also begin offering Parent Support Groups and virtual ways for connection next week.

Online Information: We are closely monitoring the latest updates and protocols and we are sharing community information, advocacy updates and resources for families through a dedicated COVID-19 web page, Email campaigns, and Social Media. We will continue to keep our communities informed and positively engaged while we work through these uncertain days.