



GGRC GUIDANCE ON DAY PROGRAM CLOSURES Related to COVID-19

Updated as of May 28, 2020
(Please Note: Content Below Has Changed)

Dear Service Providers:

We are starting to enter a new time during this pandemic, looking at how to continue to keep people safe and take precautions to minimize the spread of COVID-19 while also planning for reintegration in our community and planning for in-person service delivery. The following information provides continued guidance for planning for gradually resuming in-person day, employment and related non-residential service delivery that may previously have been provided remotely or on hold during the Shelter in Place Orders.

Please continue to monitor local “Shelter in Place” orders issued by the Department of Public Health (DPH). The local orders are in addition to the open ended stay-at-home statewide order issued by Governor Newsom on March 19, 2020. As counties across our state slowly start to reopen, please continue to monitor both the local and state DPH orders and remember, the order with the strictest guidelines is the order to be followed.

Day Service Site Closures

As of the date of this letter, the local San Mateo and Marin County DPH orders are set to expire May 31, 2020, but they may be extended. San Francisco County has extended its Shelter in Place order indefinitely but are starting to introduce a community reopening plan. If the Shelter in Place orders are extended, day program sites should continue to remain closed in accordance with their local DPH orders. As day programs have demonstrated over the past two months, site closure does not prevent day services from supporting program participants remotely in other ways (see discussion below) .

All Residential Services are essential and must remain open.

Non-residential State of Emergency Funding

The March 12, 2020 DDS directive addressing State of Emergency absenteeism billing for non-residential services and additional May 7, 2020 DDS non-residential billing guidance do not currently include an expiration date.

However, GGRC anticipates the State of Emergency absenteeism billing for non-residential services may expire by the end of June, 2020. Although we are still waiting for confirmation of an expiration date and additional DDS guidance addressing non-residential billing, we encourage Non-residential service providers to use this time to develop plans for their future service delivery.



GGRC continues to monitor DDS Directives and guidance. This information is available at www.ggrc.org and <https://dds.ca.gov/corona-virus-information-and-resources/>.

GGRC will provide updated information as it becomes available.

Planning for Resuming In-Person Services (Day, Employment, and Related Non-Residential Services)

GGRC is currently working with a group of stakeholders (individuals receiving services, service providers, community members, and GGRC staff) to finalize tools that will help guide your planning towards resuming in-person services.

All Day Service, Employment, and related Non-Residential Services will need to complete and submit a Reintegration and Transition plan to GGRC for review and approval prior to restarting in-person services (Please note: support of individuals currently working in essential community jobs should continue during this period). Provider plans should be developed in line with local and state DPH orders and guidance. This plan will consist of three sections:

- 1) **In-Person Service Operation Plan** – Providers will identify services and activities to be provided, locations of service delivery, and how services will be provided. It is expected that this may be different than the way services were provided before the Shelter in Place orders. Not all services may be ready to return to in-person supports (or to return to in-person services at full capacity). Some providers may determine it is necessary to provide a mix of in-person services and remote services or delay the start of in-person services and just continue to provide remote services. This plan should also include communication with key partners including but not limited to: individuals served, families, residential support services, and R&D transportation.
- 2) **Health and Safety Plan** – Providers will identify precautions to be taken to help reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread including, but not limited to: physical distancing (social distancing), use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including masks/face coverings, handwashing/hand sanitizer, and cleaning/sanitizing practices. This plan will also include procedures to report and address potential COVID positive test results of individuals served or staff members, if they occur.
- 3) **Individual COVID-19 Response Plan** – Providers will work with the individuals they serve (and appropriate individual support team members) to assess interest and readiness to return to in-person services, precautions needed, modified programming needs (if applicable), and the design of an individual plan for resuming in-person services.

Please watch your email in the upcoming 1-2 weeks for more information including planning tools and resources from GGRC, as well as more information for submission and review of your plans.

We appreciate your willingness to work together to plan for program flexibility that helps support all individuals and staff when we are able to resume community activities.

As a reminder, GGRC continues to hold weekly Zoom Meetings with the Service Provider Advisory Committee. These meetings/calls are open to any service provider. Please visit



<https://www.connectics.org/providerresources> to sign up for the GGRC Service Provider Advisory Committee email distribution list.

GGRC supports efforts to keep the individuals we serve healthy and safe during these unprecedented times. We also recognize the closure results in a significant hardship for individuals who will be without their typical day or employment services.

Please be sure to stay in contact with all program participants and their residential services or families, and R&D transportation to update them on your site closure and transition plans.

We thank you for your commitment to supporting individuals served within your programs as we all work together to get through these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

Amanda Pyle
Director, Community Services
Golden Gate Regional Center