1) All Providers should have some sort of policy in place regarding what to do when an individual is COVID positive or is suspected to be COVID positive.
   a. Example 1: If someone has been tested and you are waiting for test results – the recommendation is that they quarantine until results are received
   b. Example 2: Making contacts when someone has tested positive: if you know someone you work with has been exposed, it is your responsibility to notify that person and their provider and SSA

2) WCBDD Management Team is meeting regularly to work on how to best meet the needs of providers and families during this time. If you have ideas of how we can assist, please contact Melissa Stall: 513-228-6459 or melissa.stall@warrencountydd.org and/or look for a survey coming out soon

3) Sharing resources during this time as well as utilizing alternate types of services:
   a. If you are an Independent Provider looking for additional hours and would be willing to contract with or be hired on by an agency in need temporarily, please contact our Provider Development Coordinators
   b. If you are an agency and you have staff who are in need of hours and they are willing to contract with another agency in need, please contact our Provider Development Coordinators
   c. If you are in need of staff, please contact our Provider Development Coordinators

4) There is still Grant Assistance Available to Providers:
   a. https://businesshelp.ohio.gov/
   b. The Small Business Relief Grant provides a $10,000 grant to small businesses with at least one but no more than 25 employees. The grant funding will help businesses pay for a variety of expenses, including mortgage or rent payments; utility payments; salaries, wage, or compensation for employees and contractors; business supplies or equipment; and other costs. Grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

5) Masks
   a. Masks are to be worn at all times by all employees when at work unless they cannot wear them for reasons as specified in the state orders. This includes when working in Day Programs, in homes, and when driving. An alternative to a mask could be a face shield.

6) The holidays are typically a time food, family, and fun. This year looks a little bit different due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. What is safe, and how can you celebrate and stay healthy?
   a. Guidance: Spread the Cheer, Not COVID-19 This Year – these are suggestions

7) Guidance: COVID-19 Testing Resources

8) Guidance: When Testing is Not Available to Confirm COVID-19
9) Guidance: Modified Enhanced Reimbursement for Center-Based Services
   b. Services delivered on or after January 1, 2021, will be reimbursed at the Acuity B rate for all center-based ADS/VH services for people whose acuity group assignment is A, A-1, or B. Reimbursement for people whose acuity group assignment is C will be at Acuity C rates. Providers are asked to continue to utilize the Restart billing codes for people whose Acuity group assignment is A-1, A, or B. Traditional ADS/VH billing codes are to be utilized for people whose Acuity group assignment is C.

10) DeWine has noted progress on a vaccine and has said that the state’s first inoculations may take place in mid-to-late December. The governor said he expects to share additional details on the state’s vaccine rollout plan today, Thursday, December 3, during his regular briefing. The state’s draft vaccine rollout plan was distributed October 16 and can be found here.

11) DODD and ODH Collaborate to Present COVID-19 Infection Control Webinar
   a. The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and the Ohio Department of Health are pleased to offer “Applying Infection Control for Department of Developmental Disabilities Settings” on December 9, 2020 from 10:00 – 11:30am.
   b. Register Here

12) Assistance and Guidance for Independent Providers
   a. Independent Certification Initial Application Fee Waived
   b. Background Check Assistance
      ii. Fee Waived at Warren County Board of DD – Contact Bill Caplinger to Schedule Appointment – [William.Caplinger@warrencountydd.org](mailto:William.Caplinger@warrencountydd.org)
   c. Training and Service Changes
      i. Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) training requirements are not being collected as part of the certification application at this time. The applicant may upload a blank page to that part of the independent provider application.
         1. Be aware that EVV is still a requirement for work, however
      ii. First Aid and CPR online-only classes are being accepted, with in-person requirements to resume in the future.
         1. Be aware that the certifying entity does require hands on skills checks within a certain timeframe, however
      iii. When entering Supplier ID on the application, be aware that the Supplier ID number and the Registration number from Ohio Shared Services for an account are very similar. [Supplier ID numbers can be obtained here](#).
   d. Exceeding 60 Hours for Services
      i. During this state of emergency, independent providers are enabled to exceed the 60-hour ceiling for providing services, if necessary, to maintain the health
and safety of people receiving supports. Independent providers will still require authorization from the SSA.