Provider Monthly COVID-19 Call 06/03/2021

- Due to the new Ohio orders that went into effect 06/02/21, today’s COVID Call will be the final monthly call unless it becomes necessary to initiate again
  - Monthly Provider Meetings will continue to be held the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00am
    - June’s Provider Meeting will be held via Zoom on June 15th

Updated DODD COVID-19 Guidance and Best Practices

- Ohio Department of Health Orders Rescinded
  - On June 2, 2021, the Adult Day Support and Vocational Habilitation Services order expired and the ICF/IID order was rescinded on April 27, 2021. Replacement orders from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) are not anticipated regarding Adult Day Support (ADS), Vocational Habilitation (VH) services, or Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF) settings.
  - Though these and other ODH orders have expired, the general public should continue to follow the Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- Best Practice and Guidance
  - While there will no longer be any state-issued health orders in place, below is a summary of current Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and CDC guidance that may apply to residential or non-residential services. The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) strongly encourages providers to use the guidance documents to establish the best practices to support people in various service delivery environments.
  - The CDC continues to recommend facial coverings for any person who is not fully vaccinated, meaning two weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine.

- Direct Support Professionals
  - According to the CDC, direct support professionals (DSPs) are in the same general risk category as health care personnel. DSPs are essential for the health and well-being of the people they support. Because of this, DSPs are exempt from the CDC Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People and should follow the Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel guidance from CDC which includes wearing facial coverings while working.

- Intermediate Care Facilities
  - Facial coverings are still required for all staff of ICFs regardless of vaccination status. According to the CDC guidance for Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel guidance. Likewise, facial coverings are still required for all visitors to ICFs, according to CMS guidance QSO-21-14-ICF/IID, issued February 21, 2021.
ICFs should follow current guidance from the (CMS) to determine appropriate access to the facility and resident visitation.

- **Other Residential Settings**
  - The CDC recommends that DSPs working in a person’s own home, apartment, small group homes, and smaller licensed waiver facilities should continue to use facial coverings.
  - Providers of these services can mandate their employees wear facial coverings and people receiving services can request to be supported by someone who wears a facial covering and/or is vaccinated.
  - People with disabilities wrote these tips for working with support staff including wearing facial coverings. The person making the request should understand that they may need to find another provider if they are unwilling or unable to fulfill their request. You may find additional providers in your area through the DODD Provider Search, ProviderGuidePlus, or by contacting your local county board for assistance.

- **Adult Day Support, Vocational Habilitation, and Adult Day Programs**
  - As of June 2, 2021, there is no longer be group size limitations or cohort requirements in ADS or VH settings. Providers may choose to keep some or all the practices included in the previous order in place at their discretion. DSPs working in ADS, VH, and adult day program settings should continue to follow CDC Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel guidance.
  - The provider assurance process ended on June 2, 2021, and the Risk/Benefit Discussion Guide is no longer required but will continue to be available to help guide conversations if needed. The adult day service flexibilities, including ADS restart and STEP flexibilities and codes, will remain on the DODD website for reference until identified end dates.

- **Transportation**
  - DODD transportation providers are encouraged to follow the Ohio Public Transit Association COVID 19 Guidance for Ohio Public Transit and Human Service Transportation Agencies and CDC guidance on rideshares/carpooling.

- **General Questions about Vaccinations**
  - Providers can inquire about a person or employee’s vaccination status. However, DODD continues to encourage providers not to mandate or refuse to provide services for people who are not vaccinated as outlined in Memo Monday, March 8, 2021

If you need PPE supplies or indoor crafts/activities, please email melissa.stall@warrencountydd.org

If you need staff or have staff in need of work, please reach out to our Provider Development Coordinators at providerdevelopment@warrencountydd.org