



Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Developmental Services

MEMORANDUM: **Rescission of Training Accommodations**

DATE ISSUED: **May 21, 2025**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

As a reminder, effective May 11, 2023, with the official end of the federal and state COVID-19 public health emergencies, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) rescinded all training-related accommodations granted during the pandemic.

As a result, any training that was temporarily permitted to be completed virtually must now be conducted in person, in accordance with DDS’s standard pre-pandemic requirements. This includes, but is not limited to:

- **First Aid and CPR Certification:** DDS does not maintain a list of approved agencies for First Aid or CPR training. However, certification is acceptable from any provider that offers either a full in-person classroom course or a blended learning format that includes both online instruction and an in-person, hands-on skills assessment. Please note that all skills assessments must be conducted in person.
- **Medication Administration Program (MAP) Certification Training:** This training must be presented as a hybrid. The online MAP certification course along with the ‘face-to-face’ component.
- **Crisis Prevention and Response (CPRR) Training:** This training must be completed fully in person.

All providers and staff are expected to return to full compliance with DDS’s established in-person training protocols. Virtual completion of these trainings will no longer be accepted unless otherwise specified in future DDS guidance.

As a reminder: Staff must receive all mandated and individualized training *prior to working alone with any individual*. This includes, but is not limited to, training on dining protocols, medical protocols, behavior support plans, risk plans, and any other health and safety strategies in place for the individuals they are supporting. This requirement serves as a critical safeguard to ensure staff are properly trained and equipped to provide support safely and effectively, and to follow each person’s individualized medical, behavioral, and safety protocols.

For additional information or clarification, please contact your regional DDS Training Department.