



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid
www.mass.gov/masshealth

MassHealth HCBS Waiver Provider Bulletin 5 September 2020

TO: Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) and Moving Forward Plan (MFP) Waiver
Providers Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Amanda Cassel Kraft, Acting Medicaid Director

RE: Additional Guidance and Requirements for Day Services During Phase III

Background

This bulletin is being issued pursuant to the Department of Public Health's July 2, 2020, Order Regarding Services Provided in Congregate Settings (the "DPH Order"). Pursuant to the DPH Order, effective July 6, 2020, day programs that are overseen by an agency under the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) and that have completed an attestation certifying that they meet clinical and safety standards and requirements set forth in EOHHS guidance may provide services in congregate settings in accordance with the EOHHS guidance. The EOHHS guidance for day programs is available at [Massachusetts Day Program Reopen Approach – Minimum Requirements for Health and Safety](#). All ABI/MFP **day services** providers must adhere to all requirements set forth in the EOHHS guidance.

In addition to the above, the following requirements and additional guidance apply to all MassHealth-covered ABI and MFP Waiver day services. The requirements and additional guidance set forth in this bulletin may be revised in a subsequent provider bulletin as the Commonwealth's COVID-19 status evolves over time and public health experts learn more about the virus.

Additional Guidance and Requirements

1. Day services providers must complete the [Phase 3 EOHHS Day Programming Planning & Preparation Checklist](#) with provider attestation and return it to the Disability and Community Services HCBS Provider Network Administration Unit via email to ProviderNetwork@umassmed.edu prior to operating the program in the day services setting. Programs that reopened prior to the issuance of this bulletin must submit the attestation within 30 days of the publication of this bulletin.
2. In determining whether a participant will be returning to the day services provider's program site, providers should share the [Risk/Benefit Discussion Tool](#) with participants and their caregivers/guardians to elicit conversations with all participants/caregivers/guardians regarding the feasibility of each participant returning to the program. The purpose of the risk/benefit discussion is to help the participant/caregiver/guardian determine whether the benefits of the participant returning to the program outweigh the risks. Nothing in the tool or any accompanying document should be construed to waive or limit provider liability.

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3. Day services providers must send a complete roster of participants returning to the provider's site to the Disability and Community Services HCBS Provider Network Administration Unit via email to ProviderNetwork@umassmed.edu. The roster must contain the participant's complete name, MassHealth ID #, and the days on which the participant will be attending the provider's day program site. If additional participants return to the provider's site at a later date, the provider must send an updated roster to the HCBS Provider Network Administration Unit.
4. For the period between July 6, 2020 and July 31, 2020, when a day services provider resumes in-person services at its day program site, the provider must submit claims for services pursuant to [Administrative Bulletin 20-70](#) and [101 CMR 359.00: Rates for Home and Community-Based Services Waivers](#).
5. If any participant, regardless of payer source, attending the provider's day program site, or a staff participant working at the provider's day program site, tests positive for COVID-19, the provider must notify the Disability and Community Services HCBS Provider Network Administration Unit via email to ProviderNetwork@umassmed.edu. At that time, MassHealth may request the provider's COVID-19 screening plan, isolation and discharge plan, and communication plan.
6. Providers who are directed to close their day program site for a period of time due to an exposure or outbreak of COVID-19 within their program site or who are issued directives regarding operation of their day program site due to an increase in community infection, may continue to provide remote services to all of their participants until participants can safely return to the day program site.
7. Providers should frequently check the CDC website and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health website and guidance to ensure that they are informed of, and implementing, the most current guidance.

MassHealth Website

This bulletin is available on the [MassHealth Provider Bulletins](#) web page.

To sign up to receive email alerts when MassHealth issues new bulletins and transmittal letters, send a blank email to join-masshealth-provider-pubs@listserv.state.ma.us. No text in the body or subject line is needed.

Questions

If you have any questions about the information in this bulletin, please contact the Disability and Community Services HCBS Provider Network Administration Unit.

Contact Information for Disability and Community Services HCBS Provider Network Administration Unit

Phone: Toll free (855) 300-7058

Email: ProviderNetwork@umassmed.edu

The University of Massachusetts Medical School Disability and Community Services HCBS Provider Network Administration Unit is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.