

MEMORANDUM

Ron DeSantis
Governor

DATE: September 8, 2020

Barbara Palmer
Director

TO: Life Skills Development 3 (Adult Day Training providers)

State Office

FROM: Clarence Lewis, Deputy Director of Operations

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Guidance for Adult Day Training Providers

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As a result of COVID-19, many Adult Day Training (ADT) providers suspended or significantly reduced facility-based operations. APD understands that many ADT providers experienced a financial hardship because of taking these steps; however, they took them out of concern for the health and safety of their staff and the people they serve. APD shares these same concerns. To that end, APD is directing ADT providers, before opening/expanding operations, to have protocols in place to ensure the health and safety of clients, staff, and visitors by reducing the spread of COVID-19.

Guidance for All ADT Programs

ADT programs must be operated in such a manner as to protect the health, safety, and welfare of clients, staff, and visitors during the COVID-19 pandemic. Links to the Florida Department of Health ([FDOH site](#)) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC site](#)) are provided as guidance for protocol development. Each ADT's protocols should be based on the unique needs and conditions of their clientele.

COVID-19 is a severe acute respiratory illness that can be spread among humans through respiratory transmission. Many of our mutually served clients are particularly vulnerable if they are senior citizens and/or have a significant underlying medical condition (such as chronic lung disease, moderate-to-severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immunocompromised status, cancer, diabetes, severe obesity, renal failure and liver disease). Such clients are strongly encouraged to stay at home and not participate in ADT activities at this time. Instead, they should take all measures to limit their risk of exposure to COVID-19.

Current and Proposed Operating Plans

All ADT programs shall submit their operating plans, which include strategies to mitigate or prevent the spread of COVID-19, to their APD Regional offices. All ADT programs must demonstrate compliance with their approved operating plans which must include, but are not limited to, the elements listed in the Regional COVID-19 ADT Programs Plan Review Checklist (see attached) which are based on current CDC guidelines.

Monitoring and Compliance

On March 1, 2020, the state of Florida declared a public health emergency, which remains in effect. During this public health emergency, all iBudget Florida waiver providers, including those providing ADT services, are required to comply with state directives, regulations, and requirements to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. As Florida uses a phased approach to re-open, waiver providers are expected to continue rendering quality services while focusing on the safety, health, and welfare of the individuals they serve.

In the coming months, APD will conduct on-site monitoring visits of open ADTs. The purpose of these visits will be to observe the implementation of the approved operating plans and to share any best practices from other facilities that may be useful.