

The Department continues to post other Department COVID-19-related information, including a series of Q&As on the COVID-19 page on our website [www.nd.gov/dhs/](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/) to help ensure that various partner and provider groups have up-to-date information on recommended practices as well as program and policy changes.

- Fiscal is tracking all additional federal money given to the agency due to COVID-19 and will make requests as necessary for additional spending authority.

## Regional Human Service Centers

- Purchased 351 additional telehealth licenses to expand tele-behavioral health services and further reduce total # of employees remaining at clinic
- Approved all HSC and satellite clinic core staffing plan for on-site services – reducing minimum total volume of staff to a range between 19-34
- Continue procedures of daily staff and client screening
- Continue procedures for increased infection control procedures for all common clinic and residential surfaces

## North Dakota State Hospital

- Opened dedicated quarantine unit for all new hospital and residential admissions
- Extended visitor restrictions
- Inventoried newly arrived pandemic hospital supplies
- Fit tested N95 masks for the remainder of hospital personnel assigned to work the quarantine and isolation units
- Initiated surgical mask requirement for all staff in process of direct patient care
- Made surgical masks available for patients, if requested

## Life Skills and Transition Center

- Secured devices for each residential area for resident use in electronic communication with family and friends.

## Human Service Zones

- All Human Service Zones (formerly known as County Social Services) continue to operate and serve needs for economic assistance, child welfare, and other critical programs.
- The zones continue to see a significant increase in applications for SNAP, Medicaid, Child Care Assistance, and other economic assistance programs.
- The public can continue to drop off paper applications and eligibility verification at each Human Service Zone office.

## Childcare

- First payments to licensed and self-declared childcare providers in North Dakota who applied for North Dakota's new Childcare Emergency Operating Grants. A total of 572 participating licensed childcare providers received a total of \$2.55 million in emergency operating funding.

## Behavioral Health Division

- Applied for a federal grant to support the provision of crisis intervention services, mental and substance use disorder treatment, and other related recovery supports for children and adults impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Developed and disseminated new resources:
  - [Parents Lead](#) Website:
    - [COVID-19 Pandemic Changes: Your Adult Child Moves Home](#)
    - [How to Talk to Kids if Family Member Becomes Seriously Ill with COVID-19](#)
  - [Behavioral Health Division](#) Website:
    - [The Importance of Staying Socially Connected during COVID-19](#)
    - [Resources on opioid overdose and access to naloxone](#)

## Children & Family Services Division

- Provided additional guidance and support for foster families experiencing challenges with extra-ordinary childcare costs

## Medicaid

- CMS has approved North Dakota's disaster state plan amendment request and all five Appendix K requests that apply to the waiver populations.
- ND Medicaid's temporary DME policy that addresses oxygen-related supplies and equipment as well as ventilators has been updated and posted on the COVID webpage.

## Aging & Adult Services Division

- Posted Q&As to help explain what will be different in waived services, under the approved Appendix K.

## Developmental Disabilities Division

- Posted Q&As to help explain what will be different in waived services, under the approved Appendix K.

## Human Resources

- Provided information to all staff regarding eligibility for leave provisions of the Families First Corona Response Act (FFCRA).