



PLANINJ

Planned Lifetime Assistance Network of New Jersey

Lifetime Advocacy for People with Differing Abilities

COVID-19 RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

UPDATED 4.6.20

We recommend families with loved ones who have disabilities actively protect themselves and their loved ones during this pandemic by following all best health practices being recommended by the Centers for Disease Control. This is a rapidly changing situation and we want to assure you that nothing is more important to us than the safety of our clients, staff and families. If there are concerns, please don't hesitate to call our office at 908-575-8300 ext. 2. The PLAN/NJ Board of Directors and staff pledge to continue following the following business procedures:

- Monitor the pandemic and its current and potential effects on our clients and community
- Follow all recommendations for “essential businesses” that are provided by health and governmental authorities
- Rapidly increase use of digital tools that will enable us to oversee individuals' safety and health
- Make swift decisions on their behalf to ensure their important needs are met.

For Guardianship, Home-Visit Monitoring and Advocacy clients, we continue to

- Survey each group home, health facility and partner organization to ensure they are following all best practices
- Collaborate across service sectors to plan for the best protections that will assure our clients and families can maintain their health and well-being
- Monitor directives and recommendations provided by the Centers for Disease Control, the New Jersey Department of Health, the office of the Governor of New Jersey, the Division of Developmental Disabilities, among others.

Additional COVID-19 Resources for Families of People with Disabilities:

- The Social Security Administration: Regarding the impact of economic impact payments on medicaid eligibility, per the Social Security Administration's statement dated April 3, 2020, SSA will not consider economic impact payments as income for SSI recipients, and the payments are excluded from resources for 12 months. Please see the complete statement here: [link to PDF]
- The Arc of New Jersey: <https://www.arcnj.org/information/covid-19-updates-information>
- The Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html#who-is-higher-risk>
- Mental Health America: <https://mhanational.org/covid19>
- “Plain language’ resource by and for people with disabilities: <https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Plain-Language-Information-on-Coronavirus-accessible-.pdf>
- The Disability Scoop: <https://www.disabilityscoop.com/latest-news/>

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P.O. Box 547 Somerville, NJ 08876-0547

(908) 575-8300 | Fax: (908) 927-9010 | info@plannj.org | www.plannj.org