

ODP Announces Temporary Modification to Regulatory and Waiver Requirements

[ODP Announcement 20-132](#) outlines the temporary modification of certain regulatory requirements and requirements in the Consolidated, Community Living, Person/Family Directed Support and Adult Autism Waivers to help ensure adequate staffing during the COVID-19 pandemic. These modifications are designed to provide for safe and effective staffing by offering greater flexibility in hiring, retaining and utilizing staff and will remain in place until further notice. (Please note that these modifications do not apply to Supports Coordination Organizations).

Announcement 20-132 provides further guidance regarding each of these modifications, but the seven modifications in place at this time are:

Modification #1 – Staff qualified under any service definition in the waiver may render any service, with exceptions. (does not include services that require specific training, education, certification, or professional licensure).

Modification #2 – A staff person may work for more than one provider, but only one provider needs to determine that the staff person is qualified to render a waiver service.

Modification #3 – Initial orientation does not need to include application of person-centered practices, community integration, individual choice and assisting individuals to develop and maintain relationships / Extension granted for SPeCTRUM 2.0 training.

Modification #4 – Minimum numbers of annual training hour requirements are suspended.

Modification #5 – Annual training does not need to include application of person-centered practices, community integration, individual choice and assisting individuals to develop and maintain relationships.

Modification #6 – ODP's Modified Medication Administration Training Course is acceptable for new staff in licensed settings.

Modification #7 – Certification for Medication Administration Trainers is extended to August 31, 2020 / Annual Practicum Recertification deadline extended.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW

ODP has received many inquiries about waiver and regulatory requirements that are not addressed in this announcement. Please be advised that the ODP is actively reviewing these inquiries and collaborating to produce a consistent and accurate response to them. Topics currently under review include, but are not limited to:

- Initial physical examinations for individuals and staff

- Supporting individuals who are employed outside the home during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Delays in obtaining FBI criminal background clearances per the Child Protective Services Act and the Older Adults Protective Services Act
- What to do if a staff person or an individual test presumptive positive / positive for COVID-19
- Compliance expectations for *Community Participation Supports for Direct Support Professionals* during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Compliance expectations for First Aid and CPR training COVID-19 pandemic

ONGOING GUIDANCE

ODP is continuously gathering information about COVID-19 and its potential impact on service delivery. Additional guidance regarding waiver and regulatory modifications will be provided on an ongoing basis. Please continue to monitor ODP's announcements to stay abreast of new COVID-19 developments.

Please contact ODP at RA-PW6100REGADMIN@pa.gov with any questions about this announcement.