



Division of Rehabilitation Services

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State Superintendent of Schools
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To our Partners and Vendors:

The State of Maryland continues to operate under Governor Hogan's **Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery**. Governor Hogan has recently lifted certain recreational and medical-related restrictions, including the re-opening of non-essential businesses, and the gradual re-opening of State Government offices, which includes DORS offices.

This issuance provides guidance in the provision of in-person services. Beginning **July 6, 2020** DORS will once again fund certain in-person vocational rehabilitation services, as listed below.

DORS encourages the continued provision of Virtual Career Assessment Services (Investigative Assessment), Virtual WAT/EDS, and Pre-ETS (Explore Work) and other virtual services. These services will continue for the foreseeable future. Any changes to the availability of those services will be published in advance through a communication such as this guidance document.

Please note: *In-person* Pre-ETS are not supported or funded by DORS until further notice.

DORS will begin to issue authorizations for in-person services to include:

- 30-Hour MVA Driver's Education Class
- Adaptive Driving Assessment
- Adaptive Driving Training
- Assistive Technology Assessments and Trainings
- Augmentative Communication Evaluation
- Career Assessment Services
- Independent Employment Services
- Interpreter services needed for the services listed above.
- Job Coaching
- Job Development, Job Coaching
- Orientation and Mobility Training
- OT Evaluation
- PT Evaluation
- Psychological Assessments
- Rehabilitation Communication Specialists
- Skills Training
- Speech & Language Evaluation
- Speech Therapy
- Vehicle Modification Services
- WAT/EDS

At this time we are not able to approve in-home services of any type.

Process

The DORS' field offices and WTC will remain unavailable for providers to schedule or provide training, meetings, and/or assessments. If services are typically provided at a site other than the provider location, the provider will need to use an alternate site. The site must also be compatible with CDC guidelines regarding the use of face coverings and social distancing, and must also be accessible.

Services provided in person must conform to the CDC recommendations at: (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>) for the use of facial covering and adhere to social distancing requirements. This applies to both the provider and the consumer. DORS strongly suggests that providers make hand sanitizer and face masks available for consumers who arrive without the precautions.

Employment and/or training that is provided in a medical/hospital setting must include a signed document (consumer signed) that outlines the risks associated with working in such an environment and the steps the provider/consumer are taking to assure participation is within acceptable safety guidelines.

Information about industry specific safety practices can be found at:
<https://open.maryland.gov/backtobusiness/>

There are no changes to the process outlined in the previous Guidance issued May 11, 2020.

- Questions about **EDS/WAT** services may be directed to Toni Cobb-Cannon at latonya.cannon@maryland.gov.
- Questions about **CAS services** may be directed to Kate Drake at catherine.drake@maryland.gov
- Questions about **WTC Rehabilitation Technology Services** may be directed to Brenda Isennock at brenda.isennock@maryland.gov
- Questions about **WTC CORF Services** may be directed to Dr. Maya Desai maya.desai@maryland.gov
- Questions about **Pre-ETS** services may be directed to Jill Pierce at jill.pierce@maryland.gov.
- Questions about services not covered in this clarification may be directed to your local Regional Office or Office for Blindness and Vision Services Management.

Please direct any questions beyond the items specified to your local management team. Toni, Kate, Brenda, Dr. Desai, and Jill remain available to assist in processing specific situations.

Please accept this letter as an update regarding in-person DORS services.

We truly value our partners and vendors, thusly, we want nothing more than to see you engaged with the consumers. As soon as we know more, we will send out another update. Please note, counselors and supervisors are available via email and/or phone to answer specific consumer questions.

Thank you for your continued partnership!



Scott Dennis
Assistant State Superintendent