



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary

July 30, 2021

Dear Developmental Disability Provider and Stakeholder:

Thank you for the services you have provided and extraordinary work you have done to keep Marylanders with developmental disabilities safe in the communities where they live and work during the COVID-19 pandemic to date.

These have been challenging times, and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), and the Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) greatly appreciate the partnership you have with us, people with developmental disabilities, their families, and the community-provider organizations of home and community-based services across the state.

Maryland is a national leader in our efforts to vaccinate our residents and we still have critical work to do. Given the disparate impact and the heightened risk the virus has had on people with developmental disabilities, we look forward to working with you to find solutions to help vaccinate your staff members who have yet to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.

MDH and MDOD are currently engaged with the Developmental Disabilities Coalition and other stakeholders to review Appendix K flexibilities to determine which flexibilities (1) may or may not be needed, (2) will sunset at a certain point, or (3) may remain permanent.

As you may know, Appendix K may be used by states during emergency situations to request amendments to approved Home and Community Based waivers. We remain committed to a thoughtful unwinding of Appendix K in a manner that will ensure Marylanders with developmental disabilities live the lives they choose with the support they need, and providers have guidance and assistance needed to resume pre-pandemic services.

As we look to the future of services and support administered by DDA, we want to assure you that we are incorporating lessons learned and exploring this moment as an opportunity to sustain a community-based system that is responsive to the needs of Marylanders as we emerge from the pandemic.

We will keep stakeholders informed as decisions are made about Appendix K flexibilities and unwinding implementation dates, with adequate notice to ensure a smooth transition.

Sincerely,

Dennis R. Schrader
Secretary
Maryland Department of Health

Carol A. Beatty
Secretary
Maryland Department of Disabilities