



Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Updates

Bernard Simons, DDA Deputy Secretary

May 14, 2021



Agenda



- Opening Remarks
- Deputy Secretary Update
- COVID-19 Regional Update
- The Harford Center, Inc. Sherry Nolte, Executive Director
- Questions

Deputy Secretary's Opening Remarks

- The DDA's highest priority is the health, safety, and wellbeing of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, staff, and providers
- The DDA is committed to transparency with all of our stakeholders to ensure we are all working with the same information to support our shared missions
- Thank you for your continued support in joining me during these webcast so that we can stay in-touch and be able to provide you with the most current information

Deputy Secretary's Update

- Governor Larry Hogan is lifting all capacity restrictions on outdoor entertainment, art, and sports venues and indoor entertainment venues and conventions, and all remaining restrictions on indoor and outdoor dining, on Saturday, May 15. He also announced that the State's indoor mask mandate will be lifted as soon as 70% of adults receive at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine
- **VACCINATIONS FOR ADOLESCENTS**-With approval from the FDA and CDC, COVID-19 vaccine eligibility for Marylander's age 12 to 15 opened yesterday. Eleven of the State's mass vaccination sites and hundreds of pharmacy locations will be ready to administer the Pfizer vaccine. Marylanders will be able to search for providers vaccinating adolescents at covidvax.maryland.gov

Deputy Secretary's Update

- **Governor's Orders**

- [Governor Hogan's Amended Order regarding Certain Businesses and Facilities and Generally Requiring Use of Face Coverings - May 12, 2021](#)
- Effective 12:01 am on May 15
 - All occupancy and operating restrictions are eliminated (indoor and outdoor)
 - Cruise terminal closure order is terminated
 - Order delegating authority to local health officials is terminated
- [Governor Hogan's Amended Order Enabling Alternative Alcohol Services - May 12, 2021](#)
 - Effective immediately, outdoor table size and distancing requirements for state-licensed alcoholic beverage manufacturers are eliminated

Deputy Secretary's Update

- **MDH Orders**
 - [Directive and Order Regulating Certain Businesses and Facilities & General Directives Concerning Limiting The Spread of COVID-19 - May 12, 2021](#)
 - As of 12:01 am, May 15, 2021
 - All restrictions related to indoor dining will be lifted
 - 6 ft distance between individuals becomes advisory for indoor dining, retail establishments
- **MDH Advisory**
 - [Notice Indoor Food Service, Retail, and Personal Service Establishments - May 12, 2021](#)
 - Effective May 15, 2021
 - Food service and retail establishments should promote physical distancing
 - Other recommendations for establishments

Deputy Secretary's Update

- We all have learned a great deal in the past year about supporting people with developmental disabilities in new ways that assure meaningful opportunities as defined by the person, with the support of their family and their person-centered planning team. The DDA continues to partner with the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) to provide additional resources to our stakeholders. See the [NASDDDS Reopening Packet 2.0](https://www.nasddds.org/Reopening-Packet-2.0) that has been updated at:
 - <https://custom.cvent.com/440385a26d4140e383714c52736b20b1/files/event/cf15ad485f8744a1b5b3e754d2cbe071/663d3ea032a24e32b8b51af778f45f7c.pdf>

Deputy Secretary's Update

Additional Resources:

- [Facility Based Day Habilitation Re-opening Discussion Presentation – March 23, 2021](#)
- [Support the People Who Support the People](#)
- American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry (AADMD)
<https://www.aadmd.org/white-paper>
- The DDA [Communication Highlights May 2021](#)

Deputy Secretary's Update

- Last week during our webinar, Dr. Feder stated that we would be updating the Checklist of Recommendations for Group Home Outbreaks. Please click on the link below to view:
 - [Checklist of Recommendations for Group Home Outbreak Revised May 10, 2021](#)
- The [CDC](#) issued guidance on May 13, 2021 that applies to non-healthcare settings. The DDA will continue to coordinate with Dr. Feder as new information and guidance comes out from the CDC and share information with stakeholders

Deputy Secretary's Update

[DDA Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) - May 12, 2021](#)

- The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) receives questions regarding programs, services, processes, and new initiatives directly and during topic specific webinars. This week we posted some updates
- These Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are organized into the topic specific categories to help you find those questions and responses most relevant to you
- To go directly to a specific section, you can click on the link in the Table of Contents

Deputy Secretary's Update

- The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) provides funding for Supported Employment services to gain and maintain competitive integrated employment. This memo clarifies and continues the previously issued Transmittal #DDA2014019 titled Supported Employment Activities issued on September 12, 2014 related to service delivery scope and billing requirements.

See [link](#) for details

<https://files.constantcontact.com/f401fd14401/b39139a9-d8aa-4e24-8290-7fd7e14d7653.pdf>

Deputy Secretary's Update

DDA Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) receives questions regarding programs, services, processes, and new initiatives directly and during topic specific webinars. These Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are organized into the topic specific categories to help you find those questions and responses most relevant to you. To go directly to a specific section, you can click on the link in the Table of Contents.

This is a live document which will be updated as categories and questions are added and updated. Questions received that are similar in nature were consolidated to best summarize the answers and resources.

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- I. [Appendix K](#)
- II. [Billing](#)
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- IV. [DDA Provider Applications](#)
- V. [Eligibility and Application](#)

The FAQ's includes:

- [Appendix K](#)
- [Billing](#)
- [DDA Communications](#)
- [DDA Provider Applications](#)
- [Eligibility and Application](#)
- [Person-Centered Planning](#)
- [Self-Direction](#)
- [Services](#)
- [Electronic Visit Verification](#)
- [Resources](#)



Deputy Secretary's Update

- [CMS Issues Guidance on American Rescue Plan Funding for Medicaid Home and Community Based Services](#)
- This guidance is to states on the implementation of section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan, as well as to describe opportunities for states to:
 - Strengthen their home and community-based service (HCBS) systems in response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE),
 - Increase access to HCBS for Medicaid beneficiaries,
 - Adequately protect the HCBS workforce,
 - Safeguard financial stability for HCBS providers, and
 - Accelerate long-term services and supports (LTSS) reform

Deputy Secretary's Update

- Kennedy Krieger Institute, in collaboration with Johns Hopkins Medicine, will be hosting a series of COVID-19 drive-through vaccination clinics at our Broadway Campus, beginning May 23, 2021. These clinics are for individuals with disabilities, and their family members/caregivers, who are 16 years of age or older [VACCINE REGISTRATION](#). If you have any questions, please email NDatWork@kennedykrieger.org



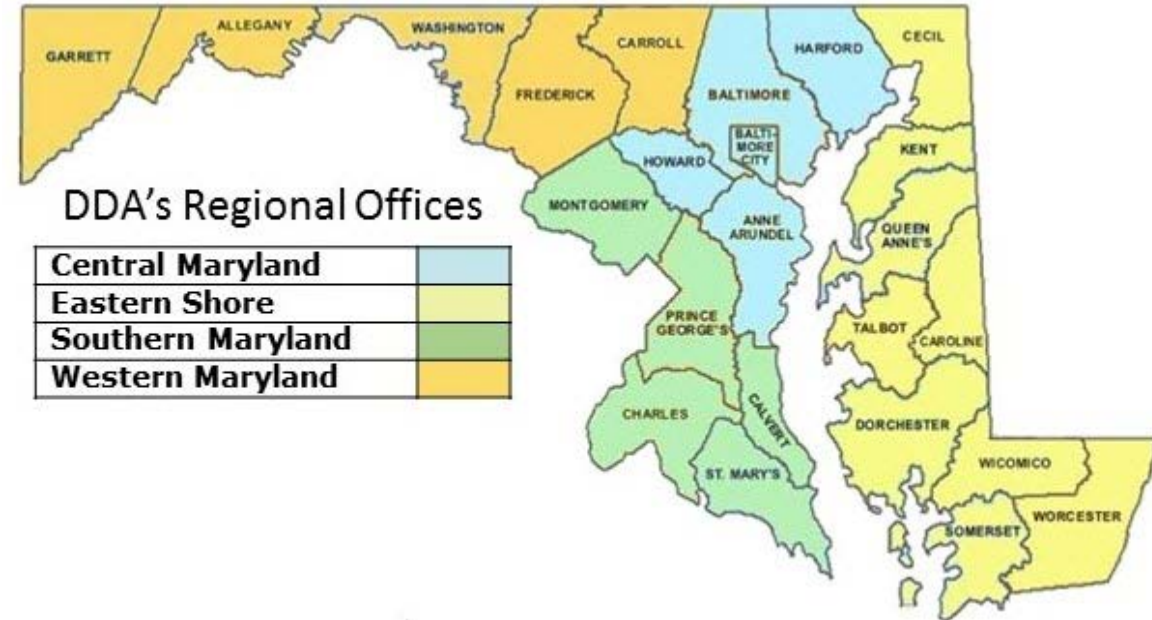
Deputy Secretary's Update

- The DDA continues to provide information, resources and coordination with our providers to support people living at home and in our DDA waiting list to be vaccinated

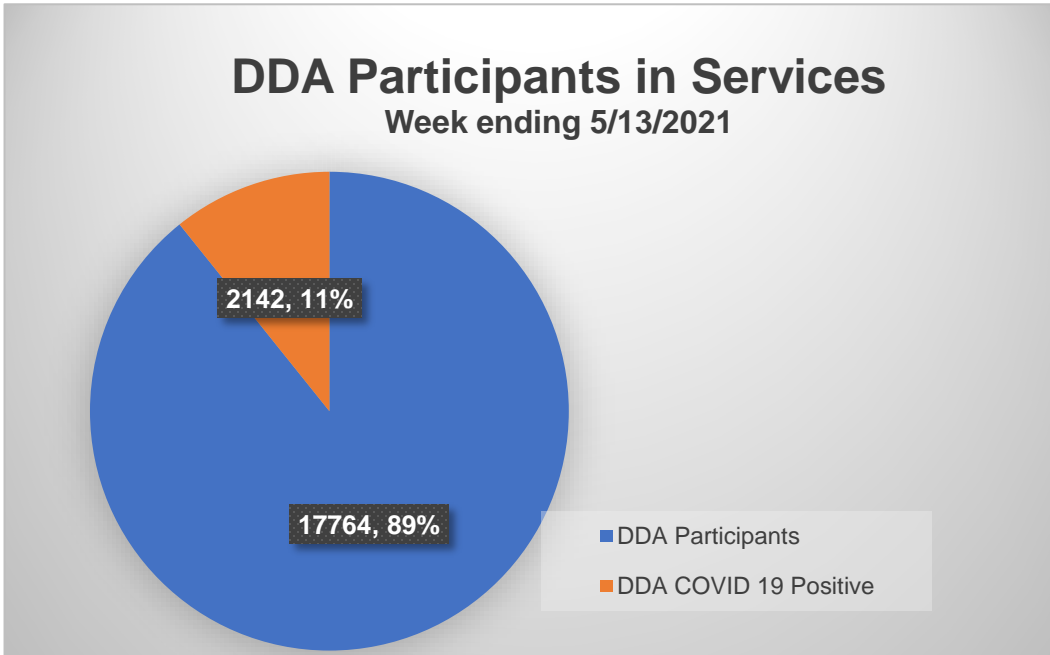


COVID-19 Regional Updates

- **SMRO**- Onesta Duke
onestaduke@maryland.gov
- **ESRO**- Kim Gscheidle
kimberlygscheidle@maryland.gov
- **CMRO**- Nicholas Burton
nicholasburton@maryland.gov
- **WMRO**- Cathy Marshall
cathymarshall@maryland.gov

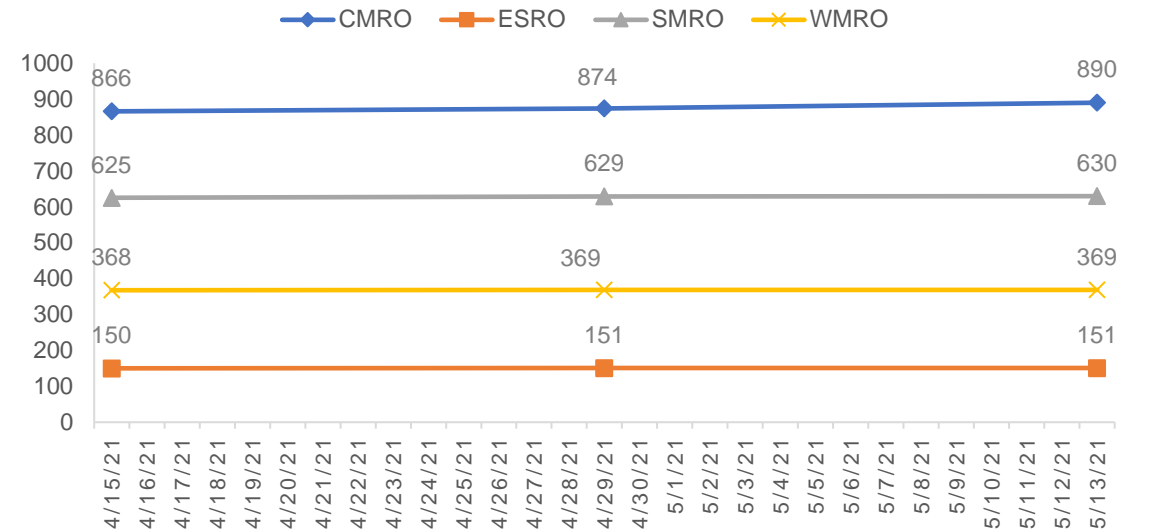


DDA Tracking



There are 17,764 people supported in services by the DDA of which 11% (2,142) have tested positive for COVID-19.

POSITIVE PARTICIPANTS BY REGION WEEK ENDING 5/13/2021

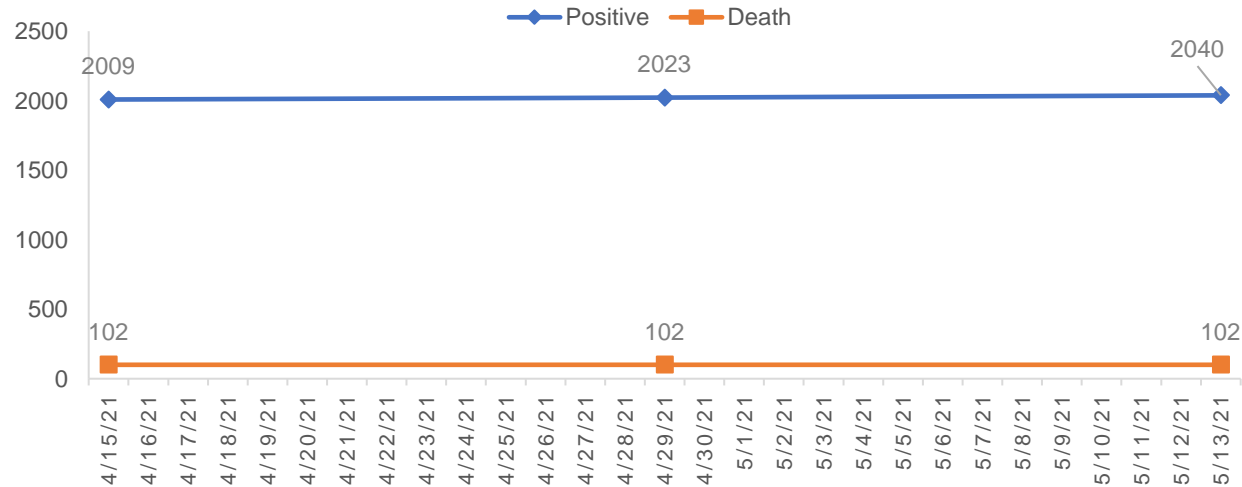


CMRO 890 Positive; Increase of 16
 ESRO 151 Positive; Increase of 0
 SMRO 630 Positive; Increase of 1
 WMRO 369 Positive; Increase of 0



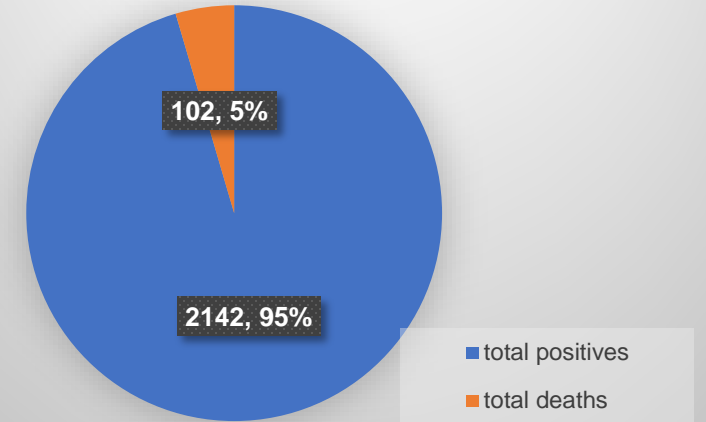
DDA Tracking

POSITIVE PARTICIPANTS STATEWIDE
WEEK ENDING 05/13/2021



There have been 2,040 participants reported as having tested positive for COVID-19 of which there have been 102 deaths. (No Increase)

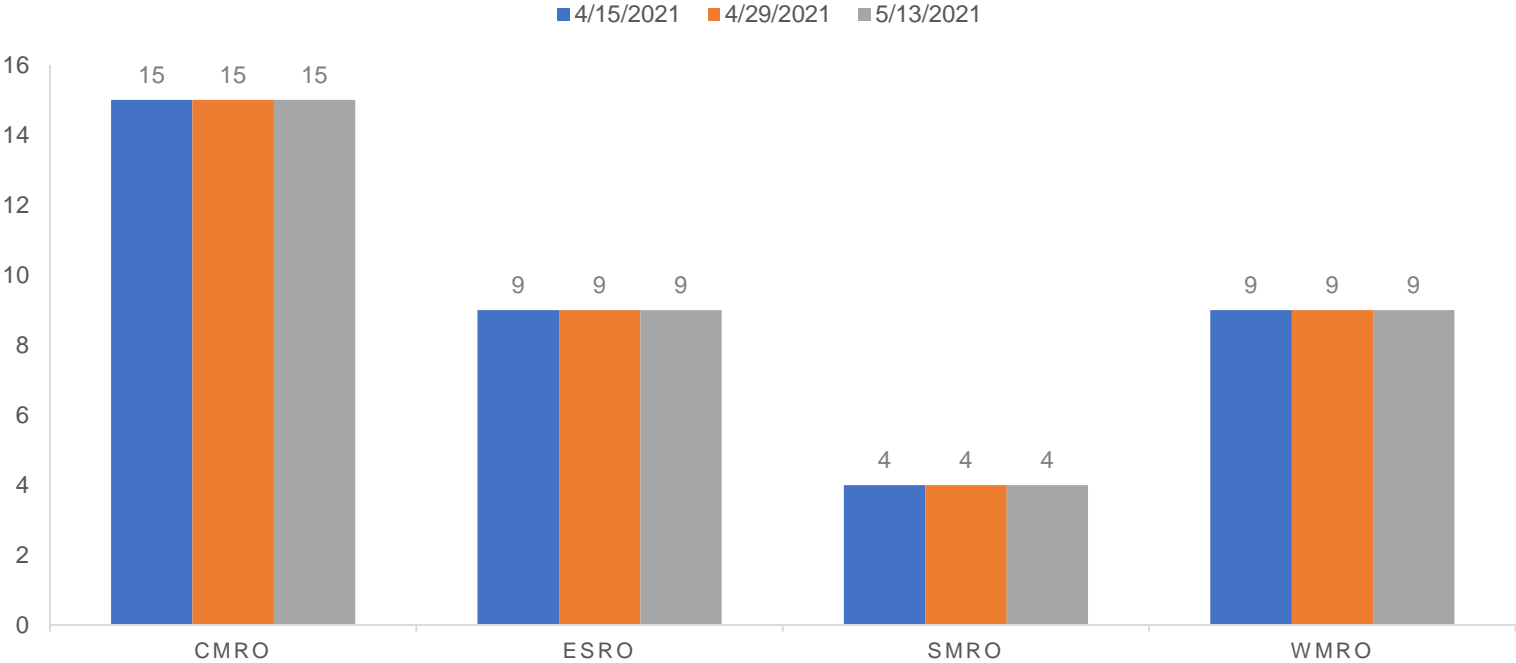
DDA COVID-19
Positives and Deaths
Week ending 5/13/2021



The 102 deaths represents approximately 5% of all (2142) participants that tested positive.

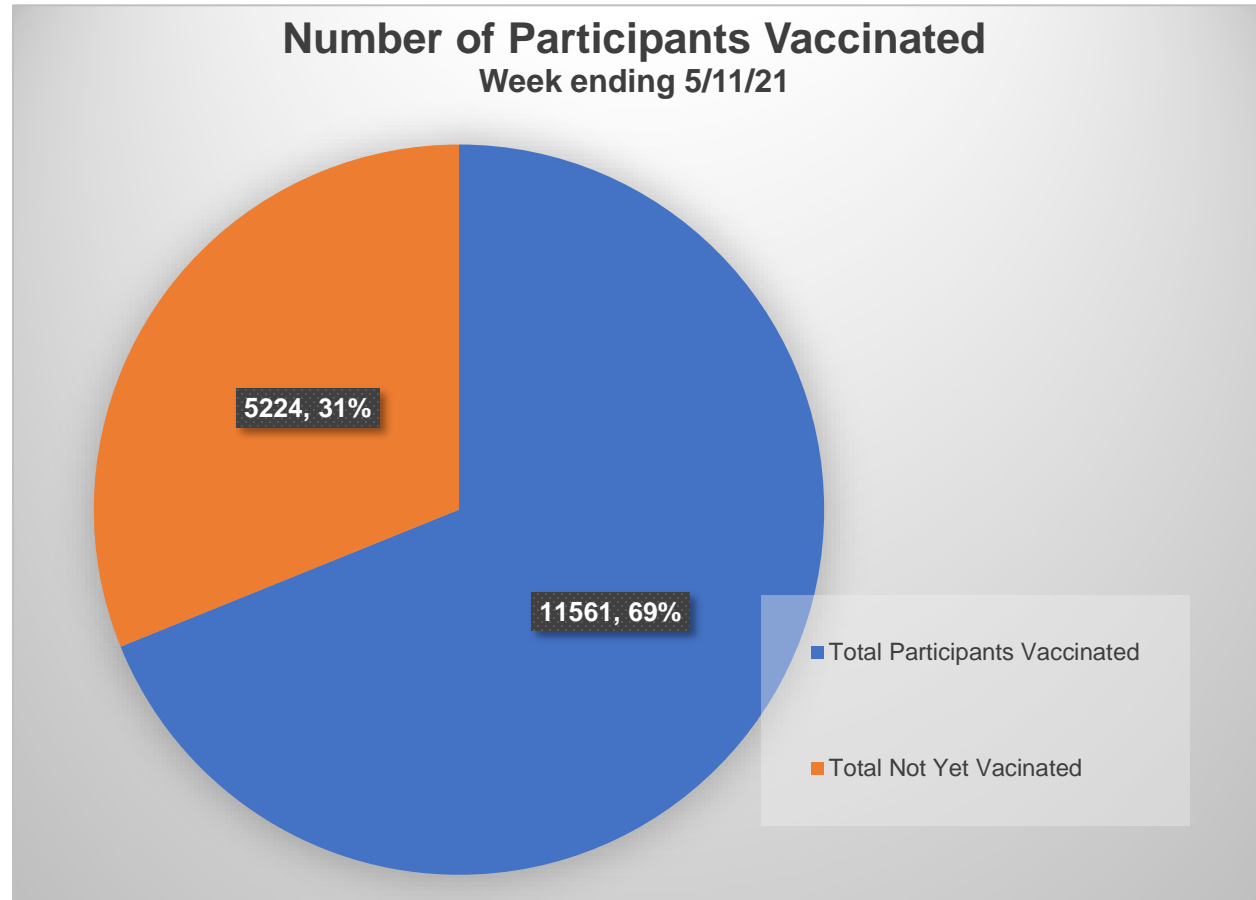
DDA Tracking

PARTICIPANTS IN SELF-DIRECTION
WEEK ENDING 05/13/2021



37 COVID-19 Positive
0 Deaths

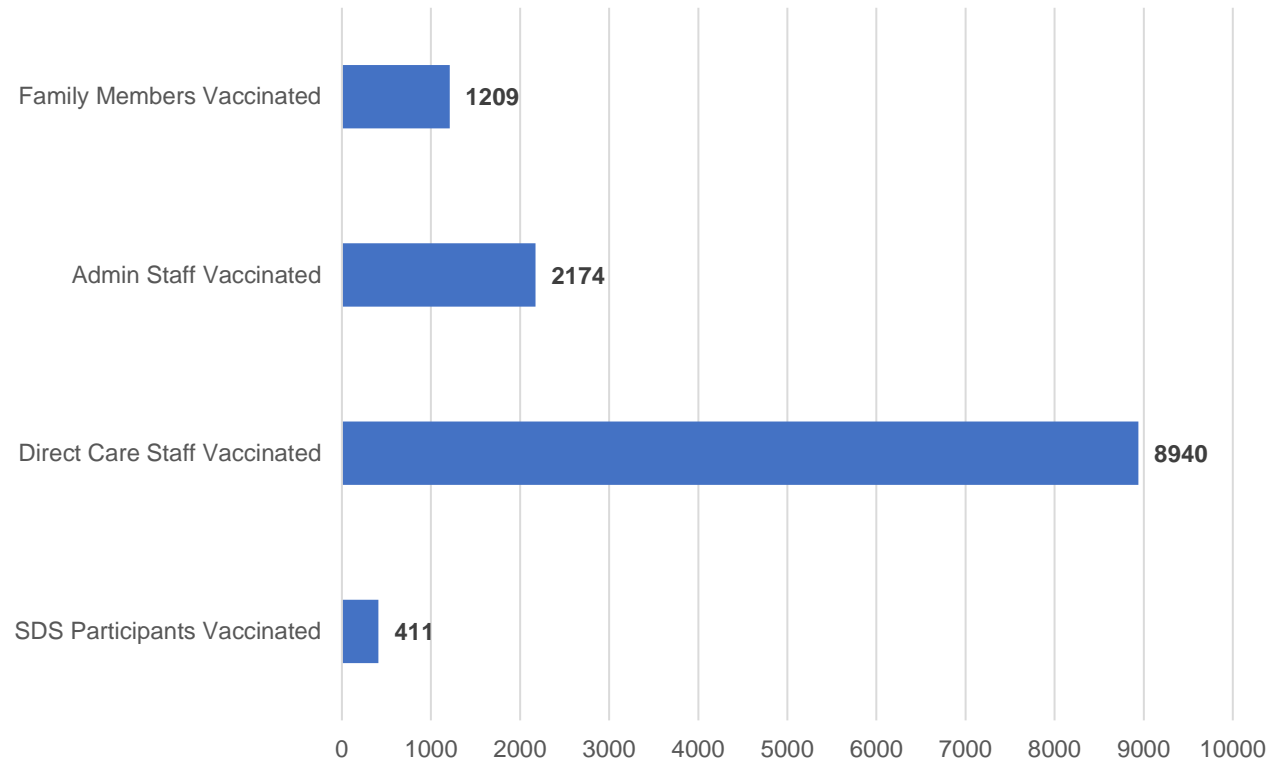
Vaccination Tracking



- Of the 16,785 participants that the agencies reported intending to have vaccinated, 11,561 (69%) have been vaccinated, 5,224 (31%) have not received a vaccine
- There have been 128 vaccination clinics held by the provider agencies with 8 currently scheduled from May 11-June 13

Vaccination Tracking

Others Vaccinated
Week ending 5/11/2021



Others vaccinated include:

- 1,209 Family Members
- 2,174 Administrative staff
- 8,940 Direct Support Staff
- 411 Self Directed Participants

Re-Opening?? What? We Never Closed!

The Harford Center, Inc

Sherry Nolte, LCSW-C

Executive Director





March 17, 2020

- Reached out to local DDA residential providers and asked if we could redeploy our staff into their homes
 - Harford County Provider Coalition (meets 2xs weekly)
- 4 other agencies welcomed our staff!
 - Quickly developed MOU's
 - HC agreed to cover all extraneous wage related-expenses (except hourly rate)
 - Built-in \$5 extra per hour
 - Reached out to all DSP's to offer "new" position providing day hab in residential homes or virtual supports
 - About 90% of the staff said yes to their "new" roles
 - At this time, we opted not to provide service in individual's private homes after consulting with our insurance company and not being able to ensure that safety protocols were able to be met. In June, we reevaluated and offered this support.
 - Stocked up on PPE!!! (already had a supply from Winter "Flu" outbreak)
 - Technology: We moved our server to a cloud-based service so that all staff could access files, information, etc. We also added a mobile time punch feature.

PROTOCOLS

- Staff took temp and sent picture to the supervisor BEFORE starting shift
 - This could also work for community-based supports
- We distributed masks on a weekly basis
- We immediately quarantined anyone who was exposed
 - Used FFCRA
- Regular zoom staff meetings to talk about concerns and fears (we used the word fear)
- We updated staff as much as possible during regular zoom meetings
 - Used to solicit ideas from DSP's – it was their suggestion that we send a bus out once per week to get people back into their communities

March-June 2020



- **Provided and billed for day services in the residential group homes**
 - **Benefit of continuity with staff**
- **Provided Virtual Supports to people living with their families**
- **Applied for PPP, HHS, ABCDEFG.... Any and all grants we could get**
- **A private foundation paid for staff's insurance and incentive pay for a couple of months**



June, 2020

- Based on COVID numbers starting to improve, we re-opened our building to family supports and offered supports in homes
- How did we make this transition??
 - PPE!
 - Limited who was in the building
 - Administration working from home
 - Limited group sizes
 - 3 participants
 - Limited cross exposure (lesson we learned along the way)
 - Grant for PPE to Outfit 12 passenger vehicles with plexiglass
 - Limited to 4 people per vehicle

June, 2020-
January,
2021

Slowly increased numbers in the building. Limited community outings

Individuals with and without masks were supported

Staff wore masks ALL the time

COVID exposures did occur.

- Reported to Health Dept and followed guidelines to the letter

RESPECTED STAFF AND
PARTICIPANTS CHOICE- NOT
MANDATED

THE VACCINE

ACCESS

- ADVOCATED FOR THE VACCINE TO GET INTO THE ARMS OF DAY HAB STAFF
- THIS WAS TOUGH!!!

EDUCATION

- BROUGHT IN EXPERTS AND SENT OUT INFO. CONSTANTLY

ADVOCACY

- NATIONALLY, STATE, AND LOCAL LEVEL

INCENTIVE

- GIFT CARD TO STAFF

VACCINE CLINICS

- FEBRUARY- 1a staff
 - TOLD THEIR STORIES - TESTIMONIALS
- MARCH 17, 2021- HAPPY ANNIVERSARY COVID
 - THROUGH HARFORD COUNTY HEALTH DEPT
- MARCH 25/26- MASS CLINIC
 - THANK YOU, NICK!



OUTCOME OF VACCINE CLINICS/ADVOCACY

- STAFF
 - 74.4% FULLY VACCINATED
 - 16.3% DECLINED
 - 9.3% WAITING FOR VACCINE OR STILL THINKING ABOUT IT
- INDIVIDUALS
 - 72% FULLY VACCINATED
 - 9% DECLINED
 - 19% NON-RESPONSIVE
 - MOST CONCERNING OF ALL!!!!

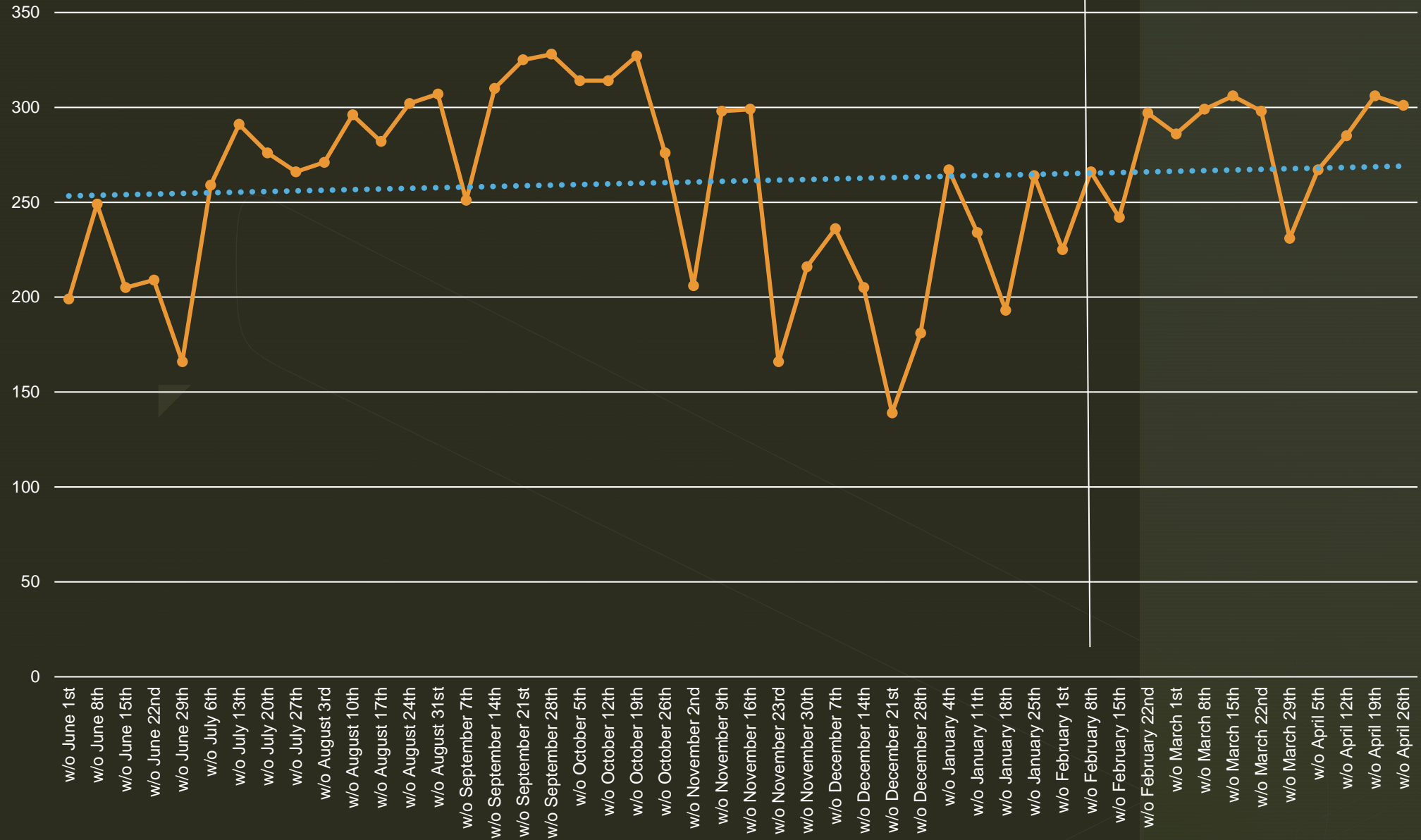
LESSONS LEARNED

- Go slowly and keep one staff with one group for all support services
- PPE for everyone!
- Limit who is in the office in case of exposures
- Don't be afraid to remind staff about how to wear PPE
- Celebrate victories; Recognize the losses
- Track everything in case there is an exposure
 - Identify a contact tracer
- Talk about the fear!
- Be transparent and say, "I don't know."
- Create Physical PPE barriers
- Apply aggressively for grants!

Revenue

- March- June 30% attendance
- June- November 30-40%
- How did we budget: based on bench-marks, increased census one person at a time. If COVID numbers or exposures increased, we backed-off.
- Virtual services were a large part of attendance
- Present attendance: 51%
- Target for July is 70%

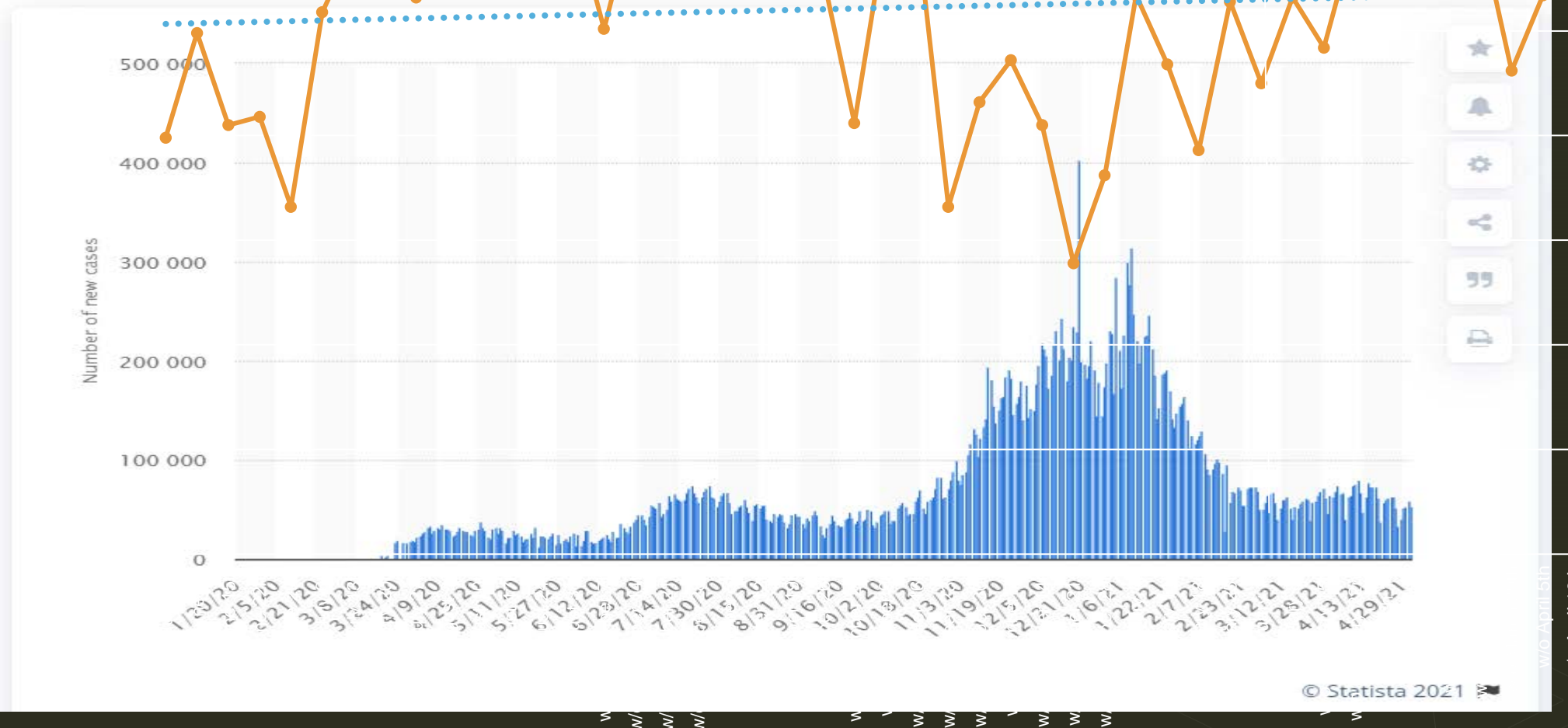
Weekly Totals from June 1, 2020



Weekly Totals from June 1, 2020

Health, Pharma & Medtech > State of Health

Number of new cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the United States to May 2, 2021, by day*



<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1102816/coronavirus-covid19-cases-number-us-americans-by-day/>

w/o April 5th
w/o April 12th
w/o April 19th
w/o April 26th

Why is it critical for day habs and supported employment programs to reopen?

- QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUE
- This population has the same rights as the rest of us. We have been given the choice to return to work, play, and our communities.
- With precautions, re-opening is safe. Over the past year, we have had less exposure events than most group homes. Exposure events have been quickly contained due to strict protocols and not intermingling groups and staff (lesson learned).
- Adjustment back to day services is just that--- an adjustment. Be playful and have team meetings to determine what that re-entry looks like.
- Develop policies for community and indoor groups.
- Develop policies for exposure notification.
- Consult with your local health department.
- EDUCATE STAFF, SET EXPECTATIONS, MODEL THESE EXPECTATIONS

Thank you!

The DSPs made this happen! They supported people during uncertain times and did a job they had never done!

Finance department had to be creative, deal with multiple grants, and FFCRA.

Program! Realigned everything we did. Had to track and support staff “virtually.”

Facilities- Building and vehicles had to be cleaned. PPE had to be stocked.

Partnerships! This was critical. We could not have done this without the Harford County provider coalition!

Upcoming Monthly Webinars

Please join us for our 2021 Webinar Series:

- June 25 at 1pm
- July 30 at 1pm
- August 27 at 1pm
- September 24 at 1pm
- October 29 at 1pm
- November 19 at 1pm
- December 17 at 1pm

To register for the Monthly Webinars with Deputy Secretary Bernie Simons starting on Jun 25, 2021; 1:00 PM EDT go to:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6873417036092171790>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.



Questions

