



**State of Louisiana**  
Louisiana Department of Health  
Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

**MEMORANDUM**

**OCDD-P-23-013**  
**OCDD-R-23-001**  
**OCDD-SC-23-010**  
**OCDD-A-23-014**

**DATE:** February 17, 2023

**TO:** Local Governing Entities  
OCDD Support Coordination Agencies  
OCDD Provider Agencies  
Fiscal Employer Agents  
Self-Direction Employers

**FROM:** Julie Foster Hagan, OCDD Assistant Secretary 

**SUBJECT:** Post-COVID-19 PHE Roadshows

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared a Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19 on January 31, 2020. Because of the ongoing PHE, in March 2020 the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) requested and received certain program exceptions to help keep families and participants safe. These exceptions were scheduled to last **until six months after the end of the PHE**. The **PHE is scheduled to end on May 11, 2023**. OCDD is scheduling Roadshows to talk about the end of the PHE COVID-19 exceptions. The Roadshows will take place at the following locations (please note that all dates and times are subject to change, OCDD will notify you of any changes as soon as that information becomes available).

Date	Region	Venue	Time	
2/28/2023	5	Lake Charles Civic Center – Contraband Room	1:30 – 3:00 PM	900 Lakeshore Dr, Lake Charles, LA 70601
3/1/2023	6	Kees Park Community Center	1-3 PM	2450 LA-28, Pineville, LA 71360
3/2/2023	7	Shreve Memorial Library – Hamilton/South Caddo Branch	1 –3 PM	2111 W Bert Kouns Industrial Loop Shreveport, LA 71118
3/3/2023	8	West Monroe Convention Center East Conference Room	1- 3 PM	901 Ridge Avenue West Monroe, LA 71291
3/6/2023	3	Terrebonne Parish Library - Main Branch	1-3 PM	151 Library Dr. Houma, LA 70360

3/7/2023	2	East Baton Rouge Library – Bluebonnet	1:30 – 3:30 PM	9200 Bluebonnet Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70810
3/8/2023	4	Clifton Chenier Auditorium	1 – 3 PM	220 W Willow St Building A, Lafayette, LA 70501
3/13/2023	1/10	Jefferson Parish Library – East Bank Regional Branch	9 – 11 AM	4747 West Napoleon Ave. Metairie, LA 70001
<b>3/15/2023*</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Livingston Parish Library - Albany-Springfield Branch</b>	<b>1- 3 PM (TBD)</b>	<b>26941 LA-43 Hammond, LA 70711</b>

The following table details information about the current exceptions to the regulations to the OCDD Home and Community Based Waivers that are in place based on approval from CMS due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. During the Roadshows, OCDD will discuss the end of the exceptions listed below.

<b>Appendix K EXCEPTIONS</b>	<b>WAIVERS IMPACTED</b>
Conversion of Vocational program hours in the current plan of care to In-home supports	NOW(IFS) ROW (CLS) SW(in home Respite)(20 hours)
Additional 20 hours per week of family support due to school closures	Children's Choice
Allowing the participant and direct service worker (DSW) to live in the same household	NOW(IFS) ROW (CLS) SW(In home Respite) Children's Choice (FS)
Allowing legally responsible relatives as DSWs, including parents and spouses	NOW, ROW, SW, CC
Allowing an abbreviated DSW training prior to work <b>(NOT EXTENDED)</b>	All waivers
Hazard pay for individuals working with participants exposed to or infected with COVID-19 per Hazard Pay Policy <b>(LIMITED TO 40 DAYS MAXIMUM)</b>	All OCDD waivers
Virtual visits for initial, quarterly and annual meetings with support coordination and providers	all OCDD waivers
Waive 30 day continuity of care rule	ROW and NOW
Background checks for staff living in the same home prior to the PHE <b>NOT EXTENDED-BACKGROUND CHECKS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL STAFF</b>	ROW, NOW, CC and SW

Please share this information with ALL waiver families and participants in your care. If you have any questions please send them to [OCDD-HCBS@la.gov](mailto:OCDD-HCBS@la.gov). As always, thank you for your support in these difficult times.