January 31st 2020 saw the first determination that a public Health Emergency existed nationwide as the result of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus. That determination was renewed 13 times (every 90 days, and is set to expire the end of the day May 11th, 2023. That is 1197 days, or 3 years, 3 months and 12 days.

Because of the Public Health Emergency the Oregon Health Authority and the Office of Developmental Disability Services (the state office that directs our work) was allowed to create policy that may be in conflict with existing Administrative Rules. Those policies will expire with the ending of the Public Health Emergency. Policies, and more importantly – practices – will revert back to their pre-pandemic rules. Some of these changes will have a direct impact on enrolled individuals and their families. While we do not have the final transmittals, the changes that we are expecting are below.

**ISP and ONA**

Resumption of annual in-home visits for people receiving in home or supported living services. This means that annual home visits will be required beginning with your next pan renewal after the end of the PHE. Simply put – once a year your Services Coordinator will need to come to your home.

ODDS requires the Oregon Needs Assessment (ONA) to assess a person’s functional needs and determine their level of care (this is a federal Medicaid requirement for funded services). There is a requirement that the individual be seen face to face during the completion of the ONA. During the pandemic we were allowed to substitute a video call for face to face. With the end of the PHE the face to face requirement is resuming. More information about the ONA can be found here: [State of Oregon: Compass Project - Compass Project: Oregon Needs Assessment (ONA)](http://www.stateoforegon.com/compassproject/onna)
ISP and ONA (continued)

Like the above change, the creation of your annual ISP must also include a face-to-face meeting. This can be at a location of your choosing, and it does not need to be the entire ISP meeting – a face to face encounter must be included at some point. You are free to work out the details with your Services Coordinator.

Speaking of ISP’s, during the pandemic we were able to retroactively revise some plans, and to authorize them with verbal agreement or emailed approval. Once the PHE ends every ISP revision must be approved PRIOR to the service starting or changing, and approvals will require a ‘wet’ signature – meaning ink on paper.

PSW Timesheets

We (LCDDS) were able to accept timesheets without employer signatures in some instances during the PHE. Following the end of the PHE on May 11th Time sheets will require the employer’s signature, except as allowed in the current CBA.

Children enrolled in Services

For those of you with children in services – the use of attendant care during remote school activities is not allowed after the end of the PHE. Attendant care may still be used during the day for absences from school, temporary sicknesses, and in conjunction with alternate school schedules – but using attendant care during scheduled school hours is prohibited. If you have questions about what this might mean for you please ask your services Coordinator.

One other significant change for families with children in services – once the PHE ends – parents will no longer be eligible to be paid providers for minor children. If you are parent who has been a paid PSW at any time during the PHE – you will need to prepare for that to end.