

# **The Institute on Disabilities**

**Pennsylvania's University Center for Excellence in  
Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service**

***Independent Monitoring for Quality (IM4Q)  
Covid-19 Supplement Report  
2020-2021***

**Submitted to: Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs &  
Statewide Steering Committee on Independent  
Monitoring for Quality**

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## ***Introduction***

The following report includes data gathered through the Independent Monitoring for Quality (IM4Q) project in Pennsylvania during the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The data were gathered in response to questions added to the National Core Indicators (NCI) and IM4Q Essential Data Elements (EDE) surveys, specifically targeting individuals' life circumstances during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Data collection was conducted remotely due to the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic. Questions may be addressed to [IM4Q@temple.edu](mailto:IM4Q@temple.edu).

## ***Guide to the Statewide Report***

Like the Statewide Report, tables throughout the Covid-19 Supplement document provide a statement and the percentage of individuals who reported that the statement applied to them. For instance, the following table would be read as “94% of respondents reported that the person has heard of Covid-19.”

Person has heard of Covid-19	94%
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## ***Why Did We Do This Supplement?***

During FY 2019-2020, data collection was halted before the end of the year, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The pandemic made face-to-face interviews unworkable. When interviews resumed in FY 2020-2021, the EDE interviews were completed using video conference technology. Questions were added to the IM4Q instruments to monitor the effects of Covid-19 on the lives of people with disabilities in Pennsylvania. In total, 3,911 interviews were completed. The following tables summarize the findings from the COVID-19 questions.

## ***Respondent Profile***

The questions regarding whether the person had heard of Covid-19 and about changes caused by the pandemic that the person liked were answered by the individual receiving services, on their own, 100% of the time. For the remaining questions, the person being surveyed answered on their own about 40% of the time. About a third of the time, staff members helped provide responses for the person. About a quarter of the time, family members assisted the individual in sharing their answers.

### ***1. Covid-19 Lifestyle Changes***

Person has heard of COVID-19	94%
During COVID, person moved or changed where they live	3%
During COVID, person had changes in their in-home supports	8%
During COVID, person stopped going in-person to day program or other unpaid day activity	37%
During COVID, person went fewer hours to day program or other unpaid day activity	15%
During COVID, person stopped working at a paid job in the community	11%
During COVID, person worked fewer hours at a paid job in the community	5%
During COVID, person saw family/friends who don't live with them less often	56%
During COVID, person went into the community less often	82%
During COVID, person stopped going to school in-person	13%
During COVID, person had something else change about their daily life	12%
During COVID, person had no change in their daily life	4%
During COVID, person did not know if anything changed	2%
During COVID, person got to choose their new daily schedule (if it changed)	49%

#### ***1.A. Positive Lifestyle Changes***

COVID changes person liked: talking with friends and family more	22%
COVID changes person liked: started a new activity	17%
COVID changes person liked: change in amount of support	2%
COVID changes person liked: staying home more	36%
COVID changes person liked: new service person started getting	3%
COVID changes person liked: using technology more	30%
COVID changes person liked: other	26%

#### ***2. Worried or Scared***

During COVID, person has been more worried, scared, sad	34%
Person wants help to feel less worried, scared, sad	16%

#### ***3. Access to Technology***

Person has a computer/tablet/smartphone they can use in their home	89%
Person has internet that always works (good connection)	90%

#### ***4. Access to Other People***

During COVID, person talked to friends and family as much as they want	69%
During COVID, person talked to supports coordinator enough	89%

#### **4.A. Remote Access to Other People**

During COVID, person talked to support coordinator using video conference	57%
During COVID, person liked talking to support coordinator using video conference	71%
During COVID, person talked to health professionals using video conference	51%
During COVID, person liked talking to health professionals using video conference	65%

#### **5. Services with Remote Access**

COVID – services using video conference: job coaching	5%
COVID – services using video conference: social groups organized by day program	21%
COVID – services using video conference: exercise or physical activity	11%
COVID – services using video conference: life skills	8%
COVID – services using video conference: other	42%
During COVID, person liked getting services using video conference	60%

#### **6. Covid-19 Protocols**

During COVID, person needed reminders to wash hands regularly	41%
During COVID, person needed reminders to wear a mask around people	37%
During COVID, person always had a clean mask to use	98%
During COVID, person needed reminders for social distancing around people	39%
During COVID, person's staff always wore personal protective equipment.	94%

#### **7. Getting Help**

During COVID, there were times (often or sometimes) when person did not have the help they needed	15%
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