



COVID-19 and Back to School

The Oklahoma State Departments of Health and Education issued joint guidance regarding COVID-19 and returning to school. The guidance encourages masking, physical distancing and cohort grouping, contact tracing and vaccinations for those eligible. [Read Preventing COVID in Schools on the State of Oklahoma website.](#)

The American Academy of Pediatrics also issued guidelines to help protect students and staff returning to school. [Read Covid-19 Guidance for Safe Schools on the AAP website.](#)

Masking Help

The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities at Rutgers Robert Johnson Wood Medical School has published resources of helping children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities become more comfortable with masks. [Read suggestions for adults on the Rutgers website.](#) The information is also available in [Spanish - CÓMO AYUDAR A ADULTOS CON DISCAPACIDADES INTELECTUALES Y DEL DESARROLLO A SENTIRSE CÓMODOS AL USAR UNA MASCARILLA FACIA.](#)

Three resources are available for helping children: [A Parent's Guide for Helping Your Child Wear a Mask](#) and in [Spanish - Una guía para padres; Help Your Child Feel Good about Using and Seeing Others Wearing Face Masks](#) and in [Spanish - Ayude a su hijo/a a sentirse bien al usar y ver a otros usar mascarillas faciales](#); and [A child's story of wearing a face mask](#) and in [Spanish - Puedo mantenerme saludable usando una mascarilla facial.](#)

Waivered Providers Receive 20% Payment Increase

Community Living, Aging and Protective Services (Advantage) and Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) waived providers will see an increase in their August payment. Funding by the American Rescue Plan and administered through Oklahoma Human Services (OKDHS), providers will receive a 20 percent retroactive increase for Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, 2020. Pending approval by the Oklahoma Health Care Authority board, OKDHS is seeking additional retroactive payments for 2021. [Read more about the rate increase on the OKDHS website.](#)

Family Support 360° Center Celebrates Summer

The Family Support 360° Center (FS360°), in conjunction with OKMama, the Oklahoma Family Network and donations from private citizens, hosted several summer events for Oklahoma families.

"Our first gathering of the summer was a donated dinner at a local splash pad in Oklahoma City where children could play safely and families could enjoy and visit with each other," said Erica Herrera, FS360° Lead Family Coordinator. "The second event was a back-to-school bash at another splash pad. Children received a backpack filled with school supplies. The families also enjoyed light refreshments."

Herrera said for the families who were not able to attend due to transportation, illness or COVID concerns, the staff of the FS360° Center delivered the back-to-school items to the front porch of their home, keeping socially distanced. The families served at the FS360° Center are from diverse, minority and underserved communities. Many are from the Hispanic community and their primary language is Spanish.

"We're so appreciative of our partners who helped make these events a success," said Herrera. "Donations help us provide needed items throughout the year to families who do not have access to other programs."

[Donations to help families of the FS360° Center are accepted through the OU Foundation.](#)

OK-APSE and Oklahoma People First Host Virtual Conference Sept. 24

Join the Oklahoma Association of People Supporting in Employment First (OK-APSE) and Oklahoma People First, Inc., in a virtual joint conference Sept. 24, 2021. This conference will take place virtually through Zoom. Those who register will receive information about joining the virtual meeting closer to the event date. There will be no charge for this year's conference. [Learn more about the conference on the OK-APSE webpage.](#)

The University of Oklahoma advances a diverse, equitable, and inclusive university community by embracing each person's unique contributions, background, and perspectives. OU Norman, OU Tulsa, and the Health Sciences Center recognize that fostering an inclusive environment for all, with particular attention to the needs of the historically marginalized populations, is vital to the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of our institutional mission and enhances the OU experience for all students, faculty, and staff.

focus facts is published for the University Affiliated Developmental Disabilities Network members. Its purpose is to highlight specific information and data items relevant to developing and sustaining positive community environments. Individual information items are provided for use in this form, or for further circulation. When re-printing information please reference *focus facts* and the month of issue noted below the banner at the top of this page. The name of a contact person for additional information on items referenced in the newsletter is provided for your convenience. If you have data, information or a story to report relevant to community living, please send it to *focus facts* Editor at the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD OU Health Sciences Center, PO Box 2690, Oklahoma City, OK 73126.

Please include the information source, by title, a one paragraph (or less) description or story, a contact name who can provide additional information on the subject, and a daytime or evening telephone number for the contact. If you have other questions regarding the format for submissions, please call the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD Headquarters Office at (405) 271-4500.

The University Affiliated Developmental Disabilities Network is open to membership by any organization or individual who shares the interests of Network members. The Network is dedicated to identifying opportunities for collaboration and information exchange among its participating members, which leads to improving our statewide, regional or local capacity to provide a better living environment in Oklahoma for people with developmental and other disabilities and their families. The Network is partially supported through a grant from the U.S. Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Department of Health and Human Services, and by the Offices of the Designated Representatives of the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD Collaborating Partners.