



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

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Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

## LME-MCO Joint Communication Bulletin # J382

**Date:** December 4, 2020

**To:** Local Management Entities-Managed Care Organizations (LME-MCOs)

**From:** Renee Rader, Assistant Director for Policy and Programs, DMH/DD/SAS  
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**Subject:** State-Funded Respite During Remote Learning

The Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (DMH/DD/SAS) continues to coordinate with the Division of Health Benefits (DHB) to support flexibility in service delivery, the continuation of quality, medically necessary services and supports for behavioral health consumers and stabilizing and sustaining provider networks.

In September, NC Medicaid [received federal approval of additional flexibilities](#) during the COVID-19 public health emergency for the NC Innovations Waiver, for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD). In an effort to apply the same flexibilities to the state-funded IDD services as those allowed under the NC Medicaid Innovations Waiver, DMH/DD/SAS will allow the use of respite during school hours during the public health emergency that necessitates remote learning as funding is available and approved by the LME-MCO.

It is important to note that:

- Respite **cannot** be used to assist with academic work. Examples include, but are not limited to, educational instruction, completion of educational activities, etc.
- Respite **can** be utilized to support with logging on to remote learning and school-related teletherapy sessions, asking for technical assistance and managing the individual's non-academic support needs. This may include paying attention to the task at hand, behavior management, personal care needs, etc.
- State-funded respite services require prior approval by the LME-MCO. The LME-MCO may request documentation that includes:
  - The individual's school schedule;
  - The hours that Respite will be used to support the member during the remote learning; and
  - The individual's needs that are being supported during remote learning.

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If you have any additional questions, please contact LaToya Chancey at [LaToya.Chancey@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:LaToya.Chancey@dhhs.nc.gov) or (984) 236-5044.

Previous bulletins can be accessed at: [www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas/joint-communication-bulletins](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas/joint-communication-bulletins).

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