



Creating Opportunities for Happy Lives!

EEDA’s Emergency Preparedness Plan for Covid-19 **Revised 9/10/2020**

Table of Contents

	Page
INCIDENT COMMAND CENTER	1
Incident Command System Core Concepts	1
Incident Facilities and Locations	1
Comprehensive Resource Management	2
Integrated Communications	2
Incident Management Team (IMT)	2
Incident Commander	2
General Staff	3
Operations and Safety Officer’s Responsibilities	3
Liaison and Planning Officer’s Responsibilities	3
Logistics Officer’s Responsibilities	4
Finance Officer’s Responsibilities	4
Public Information Officer Responsibilities	4
Additional Command Staff	5
IF EVACUATION IS NECESSARY	6
Relocation from primary residence to another location operated by EEDA	6
Phases of the Operation	6
Evacuation from Primary Residence	6
Long Island and Queens Hospitals	7
EEDA’S EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN FOR COVID-19	8
Education of Staff and Individuals	8
General infection control procedures (personal behaviors)	9
Preventive Actions	9
Hand Washing	10
Use of Hand Sanitizer	11
ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES	11
Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection	11
EEDA ACTION PLAN	14
Staff Guidance for the Management of Coronavirus (COVID-19)	14
Staff Assignments/Cohorting	14
Health Checks for All Individuals Living in Certified Residential Settings	15
EEDA Responsibilities	15
PPE Protocol	15
Designated Isolation Residence	17
Caring for someone who has COVID-19	18
Quarantine and Isolation Status	19
Quarantine and/or Isolation Considerations for Individuals with I/DD	20
Respiratory Illness Presumed to be Covid-19	20

Family member and staff notification of an individual with a positive COVID-19 test	21
If an individual needs to be hospitalized	21
Worst Case Scenario	21
Assessing Personal Needs	22
TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS	22
Quarantine Restrictions on Travelers Arriving in New York State Following Out of State Travel	
Criteria for Designating States with Significant Community Spread	22
Guidance for Travel	23
Quarantine Requirements	23
Travel Advisory Exemptions for First Responders and Essential Workers	24
Protocols for staff to returning to work following COVID-19 exposure	25
Hospital Discharges and Admissions to Certified Residential Facilities	27
COVID-19 Release from Home Isolation	27
Reporting and Notification Requirements	28
Requests for Assistance	28
Protocol for COVID-19 Testing Applicable to All Health Care Providers and Local Health Departments	28
Testing Prioritization	29
	29
RETURNING TO WORK OR PROGRAMS	30
Protocols for Offices	30
Reopening Day Program Operations	32
Standards for Reopening Day Program Operations	32
Required Day Program Reopening Plans	33
Entrance to Site Based/Participation in Community Based Programs	33
Social Distancing Requirements	35
Gatherings in Enclosed Spaces	37
Day Program Schedules and Activities	37
Personal Protective Equipment	37
Hygiene and Cleaning	38
Transportation	39
Tracing and Tracking	40
Visitation Within the IRAs	40
Visitor Protocols	40
Individuals Returning to the IRA after Extended Home Visits	42
Home Visits for Individuals Residing in OPWDD Certified Residential Facilities	43
Interim Requirements for Participating in Home Visits	43
Interim Documentation Requirements for Home Visits	44
Community Outings for Individuals Residing in IRAs	44
Interim Restrictions for Community Outings from Certified Residential Facilities	44
Interim Transportation Requirements for Community Outings	45
Interim Documentation Requirements for Community Outings	46



Creating Opportunities for Happy Lives!

EEDA's Emergency Preparedness Plan for Covid-19

Revised 9/10/2020

In the event of an emergency situation, East End Disability Associates, Inc. (EEDA) will utilize the Emergency Preparedness Plan for COVID-19. The plan will be located in an easily accessible area for all Team Members as designated by the Program Administration.

INCIDENT COMMAND CENTER

EEDA will organize its emergency response to mobilize appropriate resources and take actions required to manage its response utilizing the Incident Command Center. The Incident Command Center will vary depending upon the size and nature of the incident.

Incident Command System Core Concepts

The core concepts of activating a Command Center include:

- 1. Common terminology** - use of similar terms and definitions for resource descriptions, organizational functions, and incident facilities across the programs.
- 2. Integrated communications** - ability to send and receive information within EEDA, as well as externally.
- 3. Modular organization** - response resources are organized according to their responsibilities. Assets within each functional unit may be expanded or contracted based on the requirements of the event.
- 4. Unified command structure** - multiple disciplines work through their designated managers to establish common objectives and strategies to prevent conflict or duplication of effort.
- 5. Manageable span of control** - response organization is structured so that each supervisory level oversees an appropriate number of assets (varies based on size and complexity of the event) so it can maintain effective supervision.
- 6. Consolidated action plans** - a single, formal documentation of incident goals, objectives, and strategies defined by unified incident command.
- 7. Comprehensive resource management** - systems in place to describe, maintain, identify, request, and track resources.
- 8. Pre-designated incident facilities** - assignment of locations where expected critical incident-related functions will occur.

Incident Facilities and Locations

Depending on the incident size and complexity, the Incident Commander will establish support facilities for a variety of purposes and direct their identification and location based on the incident. Typical facilities include the Incident Command Post (ICP), incident base, staging areas, points-of-distribution, emergency shelters and an isolation house.

Comprehensive Resource Management

Resources include personnel, equipment, supplies, and facilities available or potentially available for assignment or allocation. Maintaining an accurate and up-to date inventory of resources is an essential component of incident management.

Integrated Communications

Leadership at the incident level facilitates communication through the development and use of a common communications plan, interoperable communications processes, and systems that include voice and data links. Integrated communications provide and maintain contact among and between incident resources, enable connectivity between various levels of government, achieve situational awareness, and facilitate information sharing.

Incident Management Team (IMT)

Each functional section will have a person in charge and a supervisor may be responsible for more than one functional element. The IMT will be designated into four functional sections. Each member of the IMT will report to the Incident Commander regularly to maintain continuity of the response. As a whole, the Incident Command Center will be responsible for the strategic, or "big picture" thinking of the incident response. The IMT collects, gathers and analyzes data; makes decisions that protect life and property, and maintains continuity of the organization. The IMT disseminates decisions to all impacted programs and individuals. There will be conference calls every Monday, Wednesday and Friday to report the updates of the situation and data on the health and safety of both the individuals and staff members.

Below are brief descriptions of the functional sections that create the Incident Management Team (IMT).

Incident Commander

The EEDA CEO will act as the Incident Commander (IC) and will be responsible for the activation, response and initial actions of EEDA's Incident Management Team and Emergency Preparedness Plan. If the CEO is unable to act as the IC, a designee will be appointed by the CEO. Some of the responsibilities of the IC include:

1. Initial contact person until the duties are transferred if necessary.
2. Clear authority and knowledge of agency policy.
3. Oversees the command/management functions, setting priorities, and determining incident objectives and strategies to be followed.
4. Provides the overall emergency response policy direction.
5. Oversees the emergency response planning and operations.
6. Coordinates the responding staff and organizational units.
7. Has the final determination of all decisions.
8. Approves the Incident Action Plan (IAP).
9. Ensures incident safety.
10. Approves resource requests and use of volunteers and auxiliary personnel.
11. Authorizes information released to the media.
12. Ensures after-action reports are completed.
13. Orders demobilization as needed.

General Staff

The General Staff represents and is responsible for the functional aspects of the Incident Command structure. General guidelines related to General Staff positions include the following:

1. Members of the General Staff report directly to the IC.
2. If a General Staff position is not activated, the IC will have responsibility for that functional activity.
3. Deputy positions may be established for each of the General Staff positions.
4. Deputies are individuals fully qualified to fill the primary position.
5. General Staff members may exchange information with any person within the organization.
6. Direction takes place through the chain of command.

Operations and Safety Officer's Responsibilities

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) will act as the Operations and Safety Officer and will coordinate all operations in support of the emergency response and implement the IAP for a defined operational period. The Operations and Safety Officer is responsible for managing all operations at an incident. Major responsibilities of the Operations and Safety Officer are to:

1. Manage operations.
2. Develop the operations portion of the IAP.
3. Supervise execution of operations portions of the IAP.
4. Request additional resources to support operations.
5. Approve release of resources from active operational assignments.
6. Make or approve expedient changes to the IAP.
7. Maintain close contact with IC, Operations personnel, and other agencies involved in the incident.
8. Identify and mitigate hazardous situations.
9. Ensure safety messages and briefings are made.
10. Exercise emergency authority to stop and prevent unsafe acts.
11. Assign assistants qualified to evaluate special hazards.
12. Initiate preliminary investigation of accidents within the incident area.
13. Review and approve the Medical Plan.
14. Participate in planning meetings.

Liaison and Planning Officer's Responsibilities

The Chief Program Officer (CPO) will be responsible for providing planning services for the incident and will be the Liaison with governmental agencies. Under the direction of the Liaison and Planning Officer, the designated staff collects situation and resources status information, evaluates it, and processes the information for use in developing action plans. Major responsibilities of the Liaison and Planning Officer are to:

1. Act as a point of contact for agency representatives.
2. Maintain a list of assisting and cooperating agencies and agency representatives.
3. Assist in setting up and coordinating interagency contacts.
4. Monitor incident operations to identify current or potential inter-organizational problems.
5. Participate in planning meetings, providing current resource status, including limitations and capabilities of agency resources.
6. Collect and manage all incident-relevant operational data.

7. Provide input to the IC and Operations in preparing the IAP.
8. Conduct and facilitate planning meetings.
9. Reassign personnel within the agency.
10. Compile and display incident status information.
11. Establish information requirements and reporting schedules for programs.
12. Determine need for specialized resources.
13. Establish specialized data collection systems as necessary.
14. Assemble information on alternative strategies.
15. Provide periodic predictions on incident potential.
16. Report significant changes in incident status.
17. Oversee preparation of the Demobilization Plan.

Logistics Officer's Responsibilities

The Director of Program Operations will act as the Logistic Officer. The Logistics Officer provides all incident support needs. Major responsibilities of the Logistics Officer are to:

1. Provide all facilities, transportation, communications, supplies, equipment maintenance and fueling, food and medical services for incident personnel, and all off-incident resources.
2. Manage all incident logistics.
3. Provide logistical input to the IAP.
4. Brief Logistics Staff as needed.
5. Identify anticipated and known incident service and support requirements.
6. Request additional resources as needed.
7. Ensure and oversee the development of the Communications, Medical, and Traffic Plans as required.
8. Oversee demobilization of the Logistics Section and associated resources.

Finance Officer's Responsibilities

The Controller will act as the Finance Officer and will be responsible for managing all financial aspects of an incident. Only when the involved agencies have a specific need for finance services will the Section be activated. Major responsibilities of the Finance Officer are to:

1. Develop an operating plan and manage all financial aspects of an incident.
2. Provide financial and cost analysis information as requested.
3. Ensure compensation and claims functions are being addressed relative to the incident.
4. Maintain daily contact with agency(s) headquarters on finance matters.
5. Ensure that personnel time records are completed accurately.
6. Brief agency administrative personnel on all incident-related financial issues needing attention or follow-up.
7. Provide input to the IAP

Public Information Officer Responsibilities

The Manager of Development and Public Relations will act as the Public Information Officer. The major responsibilities of the Public Information Officer include:

1. Determine, according to direction from the IC, any limits on information release.
2. Develop accurate, accessible, and timely information for use in press/media briefings.
3. Obtain IC's approval of news releases.

4. Conduct periodic media briefings.
5. Arrange for tours and other interviews or briefings that may be required.
6. Monitor and forward media information that may be useful to incident planning.
7. Maintain current information, summaries, and/or displays on the incident.
8. Make information about the incident available to incident personnel.
9. Participate in planning meetings.

Additional Command Staff

Additional Command Staff positions may also be necessary depending on the nature and location(s) of the incident, and/or specific requirements established by the Incident Commander. Additional Command Staff positions are established to assign responsibility for key activities not specifically identified in the General Staff functional elements. Additional Command Staff that may be included as part of the Incident Management Team are the:

1. Director of Crisis, Respite and Clinical Services
2. Director of Self-Directed Services
3. Director of Human Resources
4. Associate Director of Day Services
5. Facilities/Project Manager
6. Information Technology Department Manager
7. Compliance Officer
8. Quality Assurance Manager

The administration will take the following steps

1. Individuals living in EEDA's residential facilities with a high risk of exposure, people with respiratory problems or are medically involved will be identified.
2. Individuals living in EEDA's residential facilities who have the availability to go home with family will be identified. Family members will be notified, when appropriate, by Administrative staff.
3. Individuals supported by EEDA will be prioritized and supported as listed:
 - a. Individual's living in an EEDA residential or crisis facility;
 - b. Individuals receiving Community Habilitation services and ISS funding and live independently;
 - c. Non-essential supports such as Day Habilitation, Self-Direction, Respite and Crisis Services.
4. Respite and crisis nurse will contact each parent prior to the intended visit to ensure there are no signs of illness.
5. Each site will designate the chain of command. If there are no managers, coordinators or senior DSPs available for each shift, a point person will be assigned by the leadership.
6. All facilities will follow the EEDA Emergency Checklist and ensure all supplies are purchased. (**Attachment A - EEDA Emergency Kit Checklist**)
7. Emergency beds will be available at each day habilitation facility for an emergency evacuation or quarantine if needed.

IF EVACUATION IS NECESSARY

Relocation from primary residence to another location operated by EEDA

If relocation is necessary, our Crisis and Respite programs are located in Rocky Point. Any residence deemed appropriate by the Administration may be available for use. Depending on the type and length of emergency, Day Services buildings located in Riverhead and Calverton may also be utilized. Instructions from your Administrator will be provided if/when necessary. Additionally, local hotels may also be a place for potential relocation.

Phases of the Operation

The following section outlines phases for a potential evacuation from primary programs.

- 1. Increased readiness period:** This is the time where there is a potential threat to your vicinity.
 1. Gather tablets books/supplies.
 2. Individuals' clothing, medication, personal items and ADL supplies will be gathered in a suitcase within 24 hours.
 3. Wait for instructions from Administration.
 4. Inform every one of the possibility for evacuation.
 5. Keep phone lines open and monitor television and radio continuously.
- 2. Evacuation Period:** This is the phase when there is a threat to your vicinity and evacuation is required to another location operated by EEDA.
 - a. Your Administrator will inform you of where you will evacuate to. They will inform you how you will proceed, (van or emergency assistance), depending on environmental factors.
 - b. Bring necessary items described above.
 - c. Bring pets and food supply.

Evacuation from Primary Residence

Evacuation from your primary residence is a last resort but may become necessary due to unsafe conditions. If such circumstances arise, the following emergency plan devised by the Suffolk County Emergency Management Office may be implemented. Prior to relocation, your Administration may direct you to other locations operated by EEDA. Your Administrator will contact you with directions on how to proceed to the designated location in your region where arrangements have been made for temporary shelter.

****Always remember to bring necessary items (medication and individual's personal items).**
****Pets will not be allowed at county evacuation sites. Pets will need to be brought to a safe EEDA residence with adequate supply of food and water.**

Long Island and Queens Hospitals

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	OTHER INFORMATION
Brunswick Hall Psychiatric Hospital	81 Loudon Ave, Amityville https://www.brunswickhospitalcenter.org/	631-789-7000	Admissions: 631-789-7421 631-789-7263
Stony Brook Eastern Long Island Hospital	201 Manor Pl, Greenport https://elih.stonybrookmedicine.edu/	631-477-1000	Patient Info: 631-376-4005

Long Island Jewish Valley Stream Northwell Health	900 Franklin Ave, Valley Stream https://valleystream.northwell.edu/	516-256-6000	Emergency Room: 516-256-6353
Good Samaritan Hospital (CHSLI)	1000 Montauk Hwy, West Islip https://goodsamaritan.chsli.org/	631-376-3000	Patient Info: 631-376-4005
Zucker Hillside Hospital Northwell Health	75-59 263 rd Street, Glen Oaks https://zucker.northwell.edu/	718-470-8000 718-470-7700	
Huntington Hospital Northwell Health	270 Park Ave, Huntington https://huntington.northwell.edu/	631-351-2000	Emergency Room: 631-351-2300 Admitting: 631-351-2243
Mather Hospital Northwell Health	75 North Country Rd, Port Jefferson https://www.matherhospital.org/	631-473-1320	Emergency Room: 631-476-2808
South Nassau Off Campus Emergency Department at Long Beach	325 East Bay Dr., Long Beach https://www.southnassau.org/sn/emergency-care-at-long-beach	516-870-1010	Emergency Room: 516-870-1010
Long Island Jewish Medical Center Northwell Health	270-05 76 th Ave, New Hyde Park https://lij.northwell.edu/	718-470-7000 516-470-7000	Patient Info: 516-470-7710
Mercy Medical Center (CHSLI)	1000 North Village Ave, Rockville Center https://mercymedicalcenter.chsli.org/	516-705-2525	Patient Info: 516-705-1411
Nassau University Medical Center	2201 Hempstead Tpk., East Meadow https://www.numc.edu/	516-572-0123	Patient Info: 516-572-6411 Emergency Room: 516-572-6171
St. Joseph Hospital Catholic Health Services	4295 Hempstead Tpk., Bethpage https://stjosephhospital.chsli.org/	516-579-6000	Emergency Room: 516-520-2201 Patient Info: 516-520-2297
North Shore University Hospital Northwell Health	300 Community Dr., Manhasset https://nsuh.northwell.edu/	516-562-0100	Emergency Room: 516-562-4125
Syosset Hospital Northwell Health	221 Jericho Tpk., Syosset https://syosset.northwell.edu/	516-496-6400	
Plainview Hospital Northwell Health	888 Old Country Rd, Plainview https://plainview.northwell.edu/	516-719-3000	
Glen Cove Hospital Northwell Health	101 St. Andrew Ln, Glen Cove https://glencove.northwell.edu/	516-674-7300	Emergency Room: 516- 674-7325
Northport Veterans Affairs Medical Center	79 Middleville Rd, Northport https://www.northport.va.gov/	631-261-4400	800-877-6976 VISN 3 VA Nurses Helpline
Peconic Bay Medical Center Northwell Health	1300 Roanoke Ave, Riverhead, NY 11901 https://www.pbmchealth.org/	631-548-6000	
South Nassau Communities Hospital	One Healthy Way Oceanside https://www.southnassau.org/sn	516-632-3000 877-768-8462	Emergency Room: 516-632-3900
South Oaks Hospital Northwell Health	400 Sunrise Highway, Amityville https://southoaks.northwell.edu/	631-264-4000	

Stony Brook Southampton Hospital	240 Meeting House Ln., Southampton https://southampton.stonybrookmedicine.edu/	631-726-8200 631-726-8700	Emergency Services: 631-726-8420
Southside Hospital Northwell Health	301 East Main St, Bay Shore https://southside.northwell.edu/	631-968-3000	Emergency Services: 631-968-3314
St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center (CHSLI)	50 Route 25A, Smithtown https://stcatherines.chsli.org/	631-862-3000	Emergency Services: 631-862-3111
St. Charles Hospital and Rehabilitation Center (CHSLI)	200 Belle Terre Rd, Port Jefferson https://stcharleshospital.chsli.org/	631-474-6000	
St. Francis Hospital-The Heart Center	100 Port Washing Blvd, Roslyn https://stfrancisheartcenter.chsli.org/	516-562-6000	Emergency Room: 516-562-6600
St. John's Episcopal Hospital	327 Beach 19 th St, Far Rockaway https://ehs.org/	718-869-7000	Emergency Services: 718-869-7755
Stony Brook University Hospital and Medical Center	101 Nicolls Rd, Stony Brook https://www.stonybrookmedicine.edu/	631-689-8333	Emergency Services: 631-444-2499 CPEP: 631-444-6050
Winthrop University Hospital	259 1 st St, Mineola https://nyuwinthrop.org/	866-946-8476	Patient Info: 516-663-2244
Queens Hospital Center	82-68 164th Street, Jamaica https://www.nychealthandhospitals.org/queens/	718-883-3000	Emergency Services: 718-883-3090 Psych Emergency: 718-883-3575
New York Presbyterian Hospital Queens	56-45 Main Street, Flushing https://www.nyp.org/queens	718-670-2000	Emergency Services: 718-670-1100
Mt. Sinai Hospital Queens	25-10 30th Avenue, Astoria https://www.mountsinai.org/locations/queens	718-932-1000	Emergency Services: 718-267-4285
Long Island Jewish Forest Hills Northwell Health	102-01 66th Rd., Forest Hills https://foresthills.northwell.edu/	718-830-4000	Emergency Services: 718-830-4000

EEDA'S EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN FOR COVID-19

EEDA's Emergency Preparedness Plan for COVID-19 emphasis will be placed on training of staff, infection control procedures, cleaning and disinfection recommendations, in order to reduce the risk associated with transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). (**Attachment B - 3.25.2020 - General Management of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Facilities or Programs Operated and/or Certified by OPWDD**) (**Attachment C – 3.11.2020 - OPWDD Guidelines for Implementation of Quarantine and/or Isolation Measures at State-Owned and Voluntary Providers in Congregate Settings**) (**Attachment D - 7.29.2020- Revised Staff Guidance for the Management of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Facilities or Programs Operated and/or Certified by OPWDD**)

Education of Staff and Individuals

(**Attachment E - Signed letter to Staff- Corona virus – 3.9.2020**)

All direct support and clinical staff are required to be educated and trained on infection control in preventing transmission from contagious diseases, including adherence to hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. EEDA will ensure that all training requirements are up to date. Staff should receive training on:

1. Infection control including essential infection control techniques, basic standard precautions and proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
2. Environmental cleaning.
3. Review of activity restrictions, isolation and quarantine.
4. Signs, symptoms and risk factors that increase the potential for disease transmission.
5. Proper handwashing techniques (<https://www.youtube.com/embed/d914EnpU4Fo>).

Additionally, direct support staff will assist the individuals they support in building awareness around good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

General infection control procedures (personal behaviors)

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases. EEDA will implement the following preventive actions in all care settings:

Preventive Actions

1. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
3. Stay home when you are sick.
4. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
5. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
6. Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.
 - a. CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in all public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) **especially** in areas of significant community-based transmission. **EEDA agrees with CDC, however the individuals we serve, are not likely to wear facemasks so the staff will be asked to wear them at all times instead.**
 - b. Surgical facemasks should be used by people who have had proximate or close exposure, or who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of surgical facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in an IRA).
 - c. Individuals EEDA supports, who are able to tolerate the facemasks will be asked to wear them as well.
7. Staff in administrative building will be responsible for cleaning and disinfecting their desk and surroundings as well as any rooms or equipment used.
8. Meetings, interviews and trainings will be conducted via telephone conference calls or web based sites such as Skype.
9. All staff will follow the Social Distancing protocols which include avoiding mass gatherings and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others when possible.
10. Individuals will be asked to spend as much time as tolerated in their rooms to avoid close contact with the staff members and others living in the residence.

Hand Washing (<https://www.youtube.com/embed/d914EnpU4Fo>)

Hand Washing is one of the most effective strategy for reducing the spread of COVID-19. Proper hand washing saves lives at work and at home.

1. Germs can spread from other people or surfaces when you:
 - a. Touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands;
 - b. Prepare or eat food and drinks with unwashed hands;
 - c. Touch a contaminated surface or objects; or
 - d. Blow your nose, cough, or sneeze into your hands and then touch other people's hands or common objects.
2. **When to Wash Hands:** Direct support professionals and other facility staff should perform hand hygiene before and after all individual contact, contact with potentially infectious material, and before donning (putting on) and after doffing (removing) PPE, including gloves. Hand hygiene after doffing PPE is particularly important, to get rid of any germs that might have been transferred to bare hands during the removal process.
 - a. You can help yourself and your loved ones stay healthy by washing your hands often, especially during these key times when you are likely to get and spread germs:
 - b. When starting work;
 - c. Before handling medications;
 - d. Before assisting individuals with personal hygiene (toileting, bathing, shaving, menstrual care, wound care, etc.);
 - e. After assisting with personal hygiene tasks;
 - f. Before, during, and after preparing food;
 - g. After using the bathroom;
 - h. After coughing, sneezing, or smoking;
 - i. Before donning disposable gloves;
 - j. After doffing disposable gloves;
 - k. After touching garbage;
 - l. After touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste;
 - m. After handling pet food or pet treats; and
 - n. Before leaving work.
3. **During the COVID-19 public health emergency, you should also clean hands:**
 - a. After you have been in a public place and touched an item or surface that may be frequently touched by other people, such as door handles, tables, gas pumps, shopping carts, or electronic cashier registers/screens, etc.
 - b. Before touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
4. **How to Wash Hands:** Follow Six Steps to Wash Your Hands the Right Way. Washing your hands is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs, even more effective than hand sanitizer. Follow these six steps every time:
 - a. **Wet** your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), and apply soap.
 - b. **Lather** your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
 - c. **Scrub** your hands for at least 20 seconds.
 - d. **Rinse** your hands well under clean, running water.
 - e. **Dry** your hands using a clean paper towel or air dry them.
 - f. **Use** a paper towel to turn off faucet.

All facilities should ensure that hand hygiene supplies are readily available to all personnel in every care location.

5. Use of Hand Sanitizer

If soap and water are not readily available, you can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. You can tell if the sanitizer contains at least 60% alcohol by looking at the product label.

Staff should perform hand hygiene by using hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol or washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If hands are visibly soiled, use soap and water, to clean hands.

Sanitizers can quickly reduce the number of germs on hands in many situations.

However:

- a. Sanitizers do **not** get rid of all types of germs.
- b. Hand sanitizers may not be as effective when hands are visibly dirty or greasy.
- c. Hand sanitizers might not remove harmful chemicals from hands like pesticides and heavy metals.
- d. How to use hand sanitizer:**
 - i. Apply the gel product to the palm of one hand (read the label to learn the correct amount).
 - ii. Rub your hands together.
 - iii. Rub the gel over all the surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry. This should take around 20 seconds.

Access to Hand Sanitizer

Hand sanitizer should be readily available throughout the residential setting. At a minimum, there should be a hand sanitizer station near the front door of the facility, in the kitchen/dining room, and in the living room/common room, if one exists. Hand sanitizer should be present at the bedroom door of each individual, to the extent such placement does not impede the safety of individuals in the home. If staff are not wearing gloves, staff should use hand sanitizer whenever they enter or exit an individual's bedroom. To the extent that individuals in the home are at risk of ingesting the hand sanitizer, or engaging in other unsafe behaviors with it, the location of hand sanitizer throughout the residential facility may need to be modified, or staff may need to carry refillable pocket size hand sanitizers on their person.

ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES

The transmission of the COVID-19 virus can be reduced by maintaining a germ-free environment. The following measures should be taken at all facilities:

Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection

The coronavirus (COVID-19) spread by respiratory secretions (coughing or sneezing) may remain on surfaces and transmit infection for an unknown period of time. While supporting individuals, all staff must maintain a safe environment through Environmental Cleaning and

Disinfection. Cleaning and disinfection procedures are outlined in the box below for ease of reference.

Each shift should perform targeted cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched hard, nonporous surfaces, such as counters, appliance surfaces, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, hand railings, cabinet knobs, faucets, appliance faces, toilets, phones, keyboards, elevator controls, tablets, remote controls, bedside tables, and any other surfaces that are visibly soiled.

Ventilation may help reduce transmission. Open windows and use fans when practical and keep ventilation systems and filters clean.

1. Cleaning

- a. Always clean surfaces prior to use of disinfectants. Dirt and other materials on surfaces can reduce the effectiveness of disinfectants. Clean surfaces using water and soap or detergent to reduce soil and remove germs. For combination products that can both clean and disinfect, always follow the instructions on the specific product label to ensure effective use.
- b. Staff should wear disposable gloves while handling soiled items and keep soiled items away from the body. Staff should clean their hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer immediately after removing gloves.
- c. Clean any surfaces that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them. Use a household cleaning spray according to the label instructions. Labels contain instructions for safe and effective use of the cleaning product, including precautions you should take when applying the product, such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.
- d. If the residence requires the use of a shared bathroom, bathroom surfaces must be cleaned after every use. Soap and paper towels are always to be available in bathrooms.
- e. Bathrooms are to be kept in good condition and cleaned on a regular schedule with cleaners and/or disinfectants.
- f. Shower/bathe individuals who are not presenting with symptoms first and then shower/bathe individuals who are suspected or confirmed last.
- g. Avoid sharing household items with the individual. Individuals should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, bedding, or other items. After the individual uses these items, wash them thoroughly.
- h. Eating utensils, cups, and dishes belonging to those who are sick do not need to be cleaned separately in the dishwasher, but it is important to note that these items should not be shared without washing thoroughly first. Eating utensils should be washed either in a dishwasher or by hand with hot water and soap.

2. Disinfection

- a. If EPA- and DEC*-registered products specifically labeled for SARS-CoV-2 are not available, disinfect surfaces using a disinfectant labeled to be effective against rhinovirus and/or human coronavirus. EPA- and DEC*- registered disinfectants specifically labeled as effective against SARS-CoV-2 may become commercially

- available at a future time and once available, those products should be used for targeted disinfection of frequently touched surfaces.
- b. Label directions must be followed when using disinfectants to ensure the target viruses are effectively killed. This includes adequate contact times (i.e., the amount of time a disinfectant should remain on surfaces to be effective), which may vary between five and ten minutes after application. Disinfectants that come in a wipe form will also list effective contact times on their label.
 - c. Following “contact time,” any leftover cleaning fluids are to be wiped and discarded after use.
 - d. For disinfectants that come in concentrated forms, it is important to carefully follow instructions for making the diluted concentration needed to effectively kill the target virus. This information can be found on the product label.
 - e. Staff are reminded to ensure procedures for safe and effective use of all products are followed. Safety instructions are listed on product labels and include the personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves) that should be used.
- 3. Wash all bedding/linens**
- a. Read and follow directions on labels of laundry or clothing items and detergent. In general, use a normal laundry detergent according to washing machine instructions and dry thoroughly using the warmest temperatures recommended on the clothing label.
 - b. Clothing and linens soiled with respiratory secretions should be washed and dried separately.
 - c. Individuals and/or staff should avoid “hugging” laundry prior to washing it to prevent contaminating themselves.
 - d. Individuals and/or staff should wash their hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer immediately after handling dirty laundry.
 - e. Gowns can be worn to avoid contamination.
 - f. Staff should wear disposable gloves while handling potentially soiled items/bedding and while cleaning and disinfecting surfaces unless **working with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19**. Place all used gloves and other disposable contaminated items in a bag that can be tied closed before disposing of them with other waste.
- 4. Waste baskets**
- a. Ensure waste baskets available and visible. Make sure wastebaskets are emptied on a regular basis. Persons emptying waste baskets should wear gloves to do so and dispose of the gloves immediately.
 - b. Place all used disposable gloves, facemasks, and other contaminated items in a lined container before disposing of them with other household waste.
 - c. Staff should clean their hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer immediately after handling these items. Soap and water should be used if hands are visibly dirty.

Staff should discuss any additional questions with their supervisor or assigned nursing staff.

EEDA ACTION PLAN

(Attachment F - 4.16.2020 - COVID-19 05-15 Closing Extension Letter to Families)

To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and for the safety of the individuals served, EEDA closed the following programs as needed:

1. Day Habilitation Programs
2. Adult Socialization Program
3. Pre-Vocational and SEMP Employment Programs
4. Children's Saturday Program
5. Children's Vacation Program
6. Overnight Respite Services

Community Habilitation services was limited to individuals who self-direct their services and individuals living alone in the community.

Staff Guidance for the Management of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The following recommendations are to be employed by all EEDA staff.

All staff that are going into any EEDA facility, including the administrative office will be required to their temperatures. Employees will add their temperature to a chart that will be maintained at each facility. The staff will also be asked if they have a shortness of breath, a cough, came in contact with a person confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 in the past 14 days and traveled within a state with significant community spread of COVID-19 for longer than 24 hours within the past 14 days. (**Attachment G – Staff Health Screening Form**) The thermometers used must be cleaned and disinfected with alcohol after each use. Any staff member who has a temperature over 100 degrees will need to go home and should be directed to contact their medical care provider and local health department for further direction, which may include quarantine and/or testing. Staff who are directed by their local health department to quarantine pending test results must notify their supervisor. The site or HR should maintain a written log regarding staff passing/failing the health screen. All staff who have worked in close proximity with the presumed infected staff member, in addition to all individuals living in the residential setting, should contact their local health department to determine if they should also be quarantined.

Staff Assignments/Cohorting

These guidelines are designed to minimize the risk for the transmission of COVID-19 from infected to non-infected persons. In addition, EEDA must ensure that staffing levels are maintained in accordance with agency/program requirements and based on the supervision needs of the individuals served.

1. Staff assignments into or out of any site with individuals who have a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 and who are under Required Mandatory Isolation should be limited by maintaining similar daily staff assignments to the extent possible.
2. Staff assignments into or out of sites with individuals who have a confirmed exposure to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 and are under Required Mandatory Quarantine should also be limited to the greatest extent possible.

3. Assignment of staff who support individuals with a confirmed exposure but who are asymptomatic (i.e. that staff has not had any direct contact with a person with confirmed or suspected COVID-19), is permissible.
4. In the above example, if the individual with a confirmed exposure begins to show signs and symptoms consistent with COVID-19, those exposed staff should not be reassigned to other sites.
5. Any staff member showing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should be directed to stay home, or if the symptoms emerge while at work, should be sent home.

Health Checks for All Individuals Living in Certified Residential Settings

Health checks should be implemented for all individuals living in a residential facility certified or operated by OPWDD. Check each individual at least once daily, and as needed, for fever (as measured with a thermometer), cough, or difficulty breathing, and document findings. Any individual with fever or signs and symptoms of COVID-like illness should be immediately isolated to their room and the RN should be notified. The Post-Fever COVID 19 Physical Signs/Symptoms Checklist will begin to be filled out for 14 days following the identification of a fever. (**Attachment H - Post-Fever COVID 19 Physical Signs/Symptoms Checklist**) The individual's health care provider should also be contacted for further direction. 911 should be called immediately if symptoms are severe.

EEDA Responsibilities

The administration will take to following steps:

1. Ensure all staff caring for individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 have the following influenza personal protective equipment available to them:
 - a. Masks
 - b. Eye shields
 - c. Gowns
 - d. Gloves

PPE Protocol

PPE is used by healthcare personnel, including direct support staff and clinicians, to protect themselves, individuals, and others, when providing care. PPE helps protect staff from potentially infectious individuals and materials, toxic medications, and other potentially dangerous substances used in healthcare delivery. However, PPE is only effective as one component of a comprehensive program aimed at preventing the transmission of COVID-19. EEDA will consult the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance to optimize the supply of PPE and equipment through conventional, contingency, and crisis strategies.

The PPE protocol recommended when caring for an individual with known or suspected COVID-19 includes:

1. Facemasks:

- a. Put on facemask upon entry into the residence, and wear at all times while in the work setting.
- b. As needed and based on available supply, implement extended use of facemasks. Wear the same facemask for multiple individuals with confirmed COVID-19 without

- removing between individuals. Change only when soiled, wet, or damaged. Do not touch the facemask.
- c. If necessary, use expired facemasks.
 - d. Prioritize facemasks for staff rather than as source control for individuals. Have individuals use tissues or similar barriers to cover their mouth and nose. Assist individuals with this as needed.
 - e. If necessary, implement limited re-use of facemasks. Do not touch outer surface of facemask. After removal, fold so that the outer surface of the mask is inward and store in a breathable container, such as a paper bag, between uses. This facemask should be assigned to a single staff member. Always perform hand hygiene immediately after touching the facemask.
 - f. When splashes or sprays are anticipated, use a face shield covering the entire front and sides of the face. Use goggles if face shields are not available.
 - g. The use of cloth masks, or other homemade masks (e.g., bandanas, scarves), for clinical and direct support staff providing direct care to individuals, is not recommended.
- 2. N95 Respirators:**
- a. All staff wearing N95 respirators should undergo medical clearance and fit testing.
 - b. N95 Respirators offer a higher level of protection and should be worn, if available, for any aerosol-generating procedures or similar procedures where there is the potential for uncontrolled respiratory secretions.
 - c. As needed and based on available supply, implement extended use of N95 respirators. Wear the same respirator for multiple individuals without removing between individuals. Change only when soiled, wet, damaged, or difficult to breathe through. Do not touch the respirator.
 - d. If necessary, use expired N95 respirators.
 - e. If necessary, implement limited re-use for individuals with COVID-19, if possible with decontamination between uses. If not decontaminated, an important risk is that the virus on the outside of the respirator might be transferred to the wearer's hands, leading to transmission to the health care personnel or other individuals. It is critical to avoid touching the respirator while worn and during or after doffing and to perform rigorous hand hygiene. Assign to a single staff person and store in a breathable container, such as a paper bag, between uses.
- 3. Eye Protection:**
- a. Put on eye protection (i.e., goggles or a disposable face shield that covers the front and sides of the face) upon entry to an individual's room or care area. Personal eyeglasses and contact lenses are NOT considered adequate eye protection.
 - b. Remove eye protection before leaving the individual's room or care area.
 - c. Reusable eye protection (e.g., goggles) must be cleaned and disinfected according to manufacturer's reprocessing instructions, prior to re-use. Disposable eye protection should be discarded after use.
- 4. Gloves:**
- a. Put on clean, non-sterile gloves upon entry into an individual's room or care area.
 - b. Change gloves if they become torn or heavily contaminated.
 - c. Remove and discard gloves when leaving the individual's room or care area, and immediately perform hand hygiene.

5. Gowns:

- a. Put on a clean isolation gown upon entry into an individual's room or care area. Change the gown if it becomes soiled. Remove and discard the gown in a dedicated container for waste or linen when leaving the individual's room or care area. Disposable gowns should be discarded after use. Cloth gowns should be laundered after each use.
- b. If there are shortages of gowns, they should be prioritized for:
 - i. Aerosol-generating procedures;
 - ii. Care activities where splashes and sprays are anticipated;
 - iii. High-contact individual care activities that provide opportunities for transfer of germs to the hands and clothing of staff. Examples include:
 - (1) Dressing;
 - (2) Bathing/showering;
 - (3) Transferring;
 - (4) Providing hygiene;
 - (5) Changing linens;
 - (6) Changing briefs or assisting with toileting;
 - (7) Device care or use; and
 - (8) Wound care.

Designated Isolation Residence

EEDA will designate the Crisis House as the residence where positively or suspected COVID positive individuals will reside until cleared by our nurse to return to their home. Only individuals with confirmed cases by a hospital, doctor or testing site should be at this location. Individuals can reside in cohorts.

The residence will be set up in three zones, Hot, Warm and Cold:

1. **The Hot Zone**

- a. In the Crisis house, the 5 bedrooms and two baths in the main house will be designated the Hot Zone.
- b. This zone will be the area where all the individuals diagnosed with COVID- 19 will stay.
- c. In this area, all staff must wear personal protective equipment which include gloves, gowns, eye shields and surgical masks.
- d. This zone will be where staff can remove the disposable personal protective equipment and discard into disposal bags.
- e. Eye shields or goggles are to be cleaned with alcohol after each visit to a person in the Hot Zone.
- f. No electronic equipment, including cell phones will be allowed in the Hot Zone once a staff member is donning PPE.**

2. **The Warm Zone**

- a. In the Crisis house, the dining room will be designated the Warm Zone

3. **The Cold Zone**

- a. The Crisis office will be designated as the Cold Zone.
- b. Staff will dress in their PPE in the cold zone.

- c. This zone will be where the staff can use the bathroom, wash their hands, record data, eat a meal, and rest.
 - d. The door to the office must remain closed from main house at all times.
 - e. Utilize their cell phone and/or electronic devices.
4. All the staff that are assigned to work in the Crisis house must:
- a. Be able to tolerate wearing the personal protective equipment and follow the specific instructions for applying and discarding the equipment.
 - b. Will be trained how to put on, remove and dispose of the disposable personal protective equipment as well as the proper cleaning of the eye shields. These trainings will include a Relias training which includes Donning and Doffing Instructions: PPE for Novel Pathogens videos. Staff will also receive hands on training. (<https://www.youtube.com/embed/syh5UnC6G2k>)
 - c. Staff will have no contact with the individuals without PPE, must avoid contact with the quarantined individuals and remain at least 6 feet away from them without personal protective gear.
 - d. All staff caring for sick individuals will have to chart their own temperature twice a day. A log will be provided and kept in the cold zone.
 - e. Staff will continue to wash their hands constantly and clean all surfaces regularly.

Caring for someone who has COVID-19

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advise that EEDA staff should do the following if they are in close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

1. Staff should monitor their health; they should call their healthcare provider right away if they develop symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 (e.g., fever, cough, shortness of breath).
2. Staff need to offer support to the individual to follow their healthcare provider's instructions for medication(s) and care.
3. Staff must actively monitor all individuals in affected homes, once per shift. This monitoring must include a COVID-related symptom screen and temperature check. The site should maintain a written log of this data. If the individual's symptoms worsen, notify their healthcare provider that the individual has suspected or confirmed COVID-19. If the individual has a medical emergency and you need to call 911, notify the dispatch personnel that the individual has, or is being evaluated for, COVID-19. Note that during the overnight shift, individuals do not need to be woken up in order to perform the health check. Instead, staff should quietly enter the individual's bedroom and do a bedside check, ensuring that the individual does not appear to be in any distress (i.e., breathing does not appear to be labored, individual does not appear to be sweating). If any symptoms are noted while an individual is sleeping, the on-call RN should be contacted immediately for further direction.
4. Visitors who do not have an essential need to be in the home will be prohibited.
5. Make sure that shared spaces in the home have good air flow, such as by an air conditioner or an opened window, weather permitting.
 - a. EEDA will install small window fans in individual's bedrooms for ventilation.
6. Perform hand hygiene frequently. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60 to 95% alcohol, covering all surfaces of hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty.

7. Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
8. Staff and the individual, if tolerated, should wear a facemask if they are in the same room.
9. Wear PPE when touching or have contact with the individual's blood, stool, or body fluids, such as saliva, sputum, nasal mucus, vomit, urine.
10. Throw out disposable gowns and gloves after using them. Do not reuse. Wash eye protection, including goggles with alcohol after each use.
11. Assure that all affected individuals remain in their rooms. Cancel group activities and communal dining. Offer other activities for individuals in their rooms to the extent possible, such as video calls.
12. Do not float staff between individuals to the extent possible. Cohort individuals with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 with dedicated DSPs, to the extent possible. Minimize the number of staff entering individuals' rooms.
13. Other individuals living in the residence should stay in another room or be separated from the sick individual as much as possible. Other individuals living in the home should use a separate bathroom, if available.
14. Avoid sharing household items with the individual. Individuals should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, bedding, or other items. After the individual uses these items, wash them thoroughly.
15. Use a household cleaning spray according to the label instructions. Labels contain instructions for safe and effective use of the cleaning product including precautions you should take when applying the product, such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.
 - a. Clean all "high-touch" surfaces, such as counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables, every day. Also, clean any surfaces that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them.
16. Wash laundry thoroughly.
 - a. Immediately remove and wash clothes or bedding that have blood, stool, or body fluids on them.
 - b. Staff should wear disposable gloves while handling soiled items and keep soiled items away from your body. Clean your hands (with soap and water or an alcohol based hand sanitizer) immediately after removing your gloves.
 - c. Read and follow directions on labels of laundry or clothing items and detergent. In general, using a normal laundry detergent according to washing machine instructions and dry thoroughly using the warmest temperatures recommended on the clothing label.

Quarantine and Isolation Status

Prior to the implementation of mandatory quarantine or mandatory isolation, EEDA must assess the setting to be sure it is safe to allow persons to remain and avoid transmission from the exposed person(s) to others in the household, should the exposed person become symptomatic.

1. EEDA will immediately restrict an individual to their room if they have a temperature of 100 degrees or higher. The RN will direct the staff to take the individuals temperature every 1-4 hours for the first 24 hours and monitor the results. The RN will decide after the initial 24 hours if the individual should continue quarantine, brought to the Crisis house or other protocol.

2. EEDA will follow OPWDD's procedures outlined in the implementation of mandatory quarantine or mandatory isolation.
3. EEDA will immediately transfer an ill person from an IRA to the Crisis house to reduce the risk of infecting other household members.
4. If an individual in one of the IRAs was exposed, the entire residence will be quarantined until the individuals are cleared.

The three (3) categories listed below describe the criteria that EEDA will use in implementing quarantine and/or isolation measures for the individuals living in the IRAs.

1. **Precautionary Quarantine:** Person meets one or more of the following criteria:
 - a. Has traveled to China, Iran, Japan, South Korea or Italy while COVID-19 was prevalent, but is not displaying symptoms; or
 - b. Is known to have had a proximate exposure to a positive person but has not had direct contact with a positive person and is not displaying symptoms.
 - c. In addition, any person EEDA believes should be quarantined, not addressed here, EEDA will contact NYS DOH.
2. **Required Mandatory Quarantine:** Person meets one or more of the following criteria:
 - a. Has been within close contact (6 ft.) with someone who is positive, but is not displaying symptoms for COVID-19; or
 - b. Has traveled to China, Iran, Japan, South Korea or Italy and is displaying symptoms of COVID-19.
3. **Required Mandatory Isolation:** Person meets one or more of the following criteria:
 - a. Has tested positive for COVID-19, whether or not displaying symptoms for COVID-19. EEDA must immediately issue an order for Mandatory Quarantine or Isolation once notified, which shall be served on the person impacted.
 - b. LHDs must immediately issue an order for Mandatory Quarantine or Isolation once notified, which shall be served on the person impacted.

Quarantine and/or Isolation Considerations for Individuals with I/DD

The successful management of individuals in quarantine and/or isolation relies upon close coordination between Local Health Departments (LHD), OPWDD, the individual and their caregivers.

Respiratory Illness Presumed to be Covid-19

(Attachment I - 3.25.2020- Health Advisory: Respiratory Illness in Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities, Individualized Residential Alternatives, Community Residences, and Private Schools in Areas of Sustained Community Transmission of COVID-19)

Recent testing of individuals and healthcare workers/clinicians/DSPs in New York City and Long Island revealed that symptoms of influenza-like illness are very often determined to be COVID-19 in facilities located in areas with sustained community transmission. As a result, ANY febrile acute respiratory illness or clusters of acute respiratory illness (whether febrile or not) in the IRAs should be presumed to be COVID-19 unless diagnostic testing reveals otherwise. Testing of individuals and healthcare workers/clinicians/DSPs with suspected COVID-19 is no longer necessary and should not delay implementation of additional infection control actions.

EEDA will regularly reassess the situation with the guidance from the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and update stakeholders as information becomes available. EEDA will also post updates on our website at www.eed-a.org.

Family member and staff notification of an individual with a positive COVID-19 test (Attachment J – 4.10.2020 - Guidance for Resident and Family Communication in Adult Care Facilities (ACFs) and Nursing Homes (NHs))

EEDA will implement a communication protocol for individuals, family members and staff. When either a positive case (resident, staff, or other) or a presumed positive case by the LHD or Health Care Provider (HCP) has been identified, EEDA will communicate to the individuals, their families and staff directly working with the individuals. Personal identifying information will not be disclosed in the communication. A letter/email regarding the positive COVID-19 test will be sent to the individual’s families and staff members outlining EEDA’s infection control policies and procedures. If possible, a follow-up call will be made to the families and speak with the individuals in-person. EEDA will maintain routine communication with individuals in-person, and if possible, with families via email or another electronic platform, such as the EEDA website, regarding EEDA’s efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19. **(Attachment K – Staff Notification Memo – 4.15.2020) (Attachment L - EEDA letter to family members of positive COVID diagnosis) (Attachment M - EEDA letter to staff members of positive COVID diagnosis) (Attachment N - 4.20.2020 Infection Control Policy)**

If an individual needs to be hospitalized

If an individual needs to get to an appropriate healthcare provider or facility, EEDA must be able to implement appropriate infection control and notify the facility prior to the visit.

1. EEDA will determine what hospital should receive the individual.
2. In an emergency, call 911. For a nonemergency, the LHD must be called first, who shall contact the State Department of Health.
3. The LHD should notify the EMS provider and hospital in advance. When working with EMS providers and hospitals that may be involved in the ill individual’s transport and care, LHDs must make sure that key individuals (“decision makers”) are aware in advance AND that front line staff (e.g. infection control, emergency department, EMS dispatch) are alerted as soon as possible after activating the plan. Therefore, unless a medical emergency exists (in which case 911 should be called), the LHD must facilitate the rapid implementation of the action plan.
4. The COVID-19 Disability Form **(Attachment O – COVID-19 Disability Form)** will be completed for the individual. This document will provide the hospital staff with vital information about the individual to provide the proper medical treatment and support.

Worst Case Scenario

In the event of staffing shortages due to staff illness, quarantine or isolation, the individuals living in the EEDA IRAs will be transferred to either the Riverhead or Calverton Day Habilitation facility. This will give EEDA the ability to provide support to the individuals in a centralized facility with less staff. EEDA will provide air mattresses for each individual which will be separated into different rooms.

Assessing Personal Needs

The hallmark of services and supports for individuals with I/DD is interdisciplinary service planning and treatment. Treatment teams should meet to assess and discuss the needs of each individual in their care, based on their individual Life Plans. Considerations should be made to determine how the needs of the individual can be met during the conditions of quarantine and/or isolation. This may include but is not limited to the following:

1. Restriction of Activity,
2. Extension of Activity Restriction, and
3. Modification of Activity Restriction.

In addition to ensuring that shelter requirements are met, EEDA will also continue to ensure that social, medical and mental health needs are met, including but not limited to the following:

1. Provision of basic needs like food, shelter, medications and laundry.
2. Mental health, faith-based, and social service needs and resources to help pass the time while isolated or quarantined. These services must be culturally and linguistically appropriate.
3. Assistance in accessing television, movies, radio, board/card games, or books.
4. Communication needs (e.g. working cellular phone, internet, etc.).
5. Provision of supplies needed for personal hygiene.
6. Support needs, including but not limited to family members, friends, and pets.
7. Persons under mandatory isolation or mandatory quarantine can walk outside their house on their own property, but they must try not come within six feet of neighbors or other members of the public.
8. Persons living in a multiple dwelling building may not utilize common stairways or elevators to access the outside. Likewise, these individuals must refrain from walking in their neighborhood.

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

Quarantine Restrictions on Travelers Arriving in New York State Following Out of State Travel

(Attachment P - 6.24.2020 - Interim Guidance for Quarantine Restrictions on Travelers Arriving in New York State Following Out of State Travel)

In response to increased rates of COVID-19 transmission in certain states within the United States, and to protect New York's successful containment of COVID-19, the State has joined with New Jersey and Connecticut in jointly issuing a travel advisory for anyone returning from travel to states that have a significant degree of community-wide spread of COVID-19.

Criteria for Designating States with Significant Community Spread

All travelers entering New York who have recently traveled within a state with either:

1. A positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents over a seven-day rolling average; or
2. A testing positivity rate of higher than a 10% over a seven-day rolling average, will be required to quarantine for a period of 14 days consistent with the Department of Health (DOH) regulations for quarantine. Data used to construct the metrics that determine the designated states from which individuals must quarantine is detailed in the tables posted publicly by all 50 states. Analysis of the metrics will be conducted weekly to determine if

travelers from other states qualify. (<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>)

3. The designated states with significant community spread will be conspicuously posted on the DOH website (<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>) and will be updated weekly. Please check the site frequently as the information will change as often as daily, as rates of COVID-19 transmission increase or decrease.

Guidance for Travel

The travel advisory is effective at 12:01 am on Thursday, June 25, 2020. If you choose to travel to one of the designated states with significant community spread as defined by the metrics above, you must quarantine when you enter New York for 14 days from the last date traveled within such designated state, provided on the date you enter into New York State that such state met the criteria for requiring such quarantine.

The requirements of the travel advisory do not apply to any individual passing through designated states for a limited duration (i.e., less than 24 hours) through the course of travel. Examples of such brief passage include but are not limited to: stopping at rest stops for vehicles, buses, and/or trains; or lay-overs for air travel, bus travel, or train travel. The travel advisory requires all New Yorkers, as well as those visiting from out of state, to take personal responsibility for complying with the advisory in the best interest of public health and safety.

Quarantine Requirements

If you are returning from travel to a designated state, and if such travel was for longer than the limited duration outlined above, you are required to quarantine for 14 days, unless you are an essential worker identified below. The requirements to safely quarantine include:

1. The individual must not be in public or otherwise leave the quarters that they have identified as suitable for their quarantine.
2. The individual must be situated in separate quarters with a separate bathroom facility for each individual or family group. Access to a sink with soap, water, and paper towels is necessary. Cleaning supplies (e.g. household cleaning wipes, bleach) must be provided in any shared bathroom.
3. The individual must have a way to self-quarantine from household members as soon as fever or other symptoms develop, in a separate room(s) with a separate door. Given that an exposed person might become ill while sleeping, the exposed person must sleep in a separate bedroom from household members.
4. Food must be delivered to the person's quarters.
5. Quarters must have a supply of face masks for individuals to put on if they become symptomatic.
6. Garbage must be bagged and left outside for routine pick up. Special handling is not required.
7. A system for temperature and symptom monitoring must be implemented to provide assessment in-place for the quarantined persons in their separate quarters.
8. Nearby medical facilities must be notified, if the individual begins to experience more than mild symptoms and may require medical assistance.
9. The quarters must be secure against unauthorized access.

Travel Advisory Exemptions for First Responders and Essential Workers

Exceptions to the travel advisory are permitted for essential workers and are limited based on the duration of time in designated states, as well as the intended duration of time in New York. The Commissioner of Health may additionally grant an exemption to the travel advisory based upon extraordinary circumstances, which do not warrant quarantine, but may be subject to the terms and conditions applied to essential workers or terms and conditions otherwise imposed by the Commissioner in the interest of public health.

Short Term – for essential workers traveling to New York State for a period of less than 12 hours.

1. This includes instances such as an essential worker passing through New York, delivering goods, awaiting flight layovers, and other short duration activities.
2. Essential workers should stay in their vehicle and/or limit personal exposure by avoiding public spaces as much as possible.
3. Essential workers should monitor temperature and signs of symptoms, wear a face covering when in public, maintain social distance, and clean and disinfect workspaces.
4. Essential workers are required, to the extent possible, to avoid extended periods in public, contact with strangers, and large congregate settings.

Medium Term – for essential workers traveling to New York State for a period of less than 36 hours, requiring them to stay overnight.

1. This includes instances such as an essential worker delivering multiple goods in New York, awaiting longer flight layover, and other medium duration activities.
2. Essential workers should monitor temperature and signs of symptoms, wear a face covering when in public, maintain social distance, and clean and disinfect workspaces.
3. Essential workers are required, to the extent possible, to avoid extended periods in public, contact with strangers, and large congregate settings.

Long Term – for essential workers traveling to New York State for a period of greater than 36 hours, requiring them to stay several days.

1. This includes instances such as an essential worker working on longer projects, fulfilling extended employment obligations, and other longer duration activities.
2. Essential workers should seek diagnostic testing for COVID-19 as soon as possible upon arrival (within 24 hours) to ensure they are not positive.
3. Essential workers should monitor temperature and signs of symptoms, wear a face covering when in public, maintain social distancing, clean and disinfect workspaces for a minimum of 14 days.
4. Essential workers, to the extent possible, are required to avoid extended periods in public, contact with strangers, and large congregate settings for a period of, at least, 7 days.

Essential workers and their employers are expected to comply with previously issued DOH guidance regarding return to work after a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 or after the employee had close or proximate contact with a person with COVID-19. Additionally, this guidance may be superseded by more specific industry guidance for a particular industry (e.g., for a nursing home worker, a negative test PCR test will be required before return to work).

For reference, an “essential worker” is (1) any individual employed by an entity included on the Empire State Development (ESD) Essential Business list; or (2) any individual who meets the COVID-19 testing criteria, pursuant to their status as either an individual who is employed as a health care worker, first responder, or in any position within a nursing home, long-term care facility, or other congregate care setting, or an individual who is employed as an essential employee who directly interacts with the public while working, pursuant to DOH Protocol for COVID-19 Testing, issued May 31, 2020, or (3) any other worker deemed such by the Commissioner of Health.

**Protocols for staff to returning to work following COVID-19 exposure
(Attachment Q – 7.29.2020 - Health Advisory: Revised Protocols for Personnel in Clinical and Direct Care Settings to Return to Work Following COVID-19 Exposure or Infection)**

As East End Disability Associates, Inc. (EEDA) continue to monitor the situation related to COVID-19, which is very fluid, protocols for allowing staff to work with the individuals supported following COVID-19 exposure were developed. EEDA will follow the guidance based on our regulatory counterparts such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and OPWDD and update the procedures as needed.

- A. EEDA may allow clinical and direct support professionals (DSP) or other facility staff who have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19, or who have traveled internationally in the past 14 days, to work if all the following conditions are met:
1. Furloughing such workers would result in staff shortages that would adversely impact operation of the programs.
 2. Such workers, who have been contacts to confirmed or suspected cases, are asymptomatic.
 3. Such workers, who are asymptomatic contacts of confirmed or suspected cases, should self- monitor twice a day (i.e. temperature, symptoms), and undergo temperature monitoring and symptom checks at the beginning of each shift, and at least every 12 hours during a shift. The staff member will be required to submit a record of their temperature twice a day on a log and report values to the RN.
 4. Such workers, who are asymptomatic contacts of confirmed or suspected cases, should wear a facemask while working, until 14 days after the last high-risk exposure.
 5. To the extent possible, DSPs and clinical staff working under these conditions should preferentially be assigned to individuals at lower risk for severe complications, as opposed to higher-risk individuals (i.e., Crisis house). As this outbreak grows, all staff will need to be assigned to treat all patients regardless of risk level.
 6. Such workers allowed to return to work under these conditions should maintain self-quarantine when not at work.
 7. If the workers who are asymptomatic and working under these conditions develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they should immediately stop work and isolate at home. All staff with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should be managed as if they have this infection regardless of the availability of test results.

- B. EEDA may allow personnel who have traveled in the past 14 days to a state with a significant degree of community spread of COVID-19 to work if all of the following conditions are met:
1. Employees are asymptomatic.
 2. Employees received diagnostic testing for COVID-19 within 24 hours of arrival in New York.
 3. Employees self-monitor twice a day (i.e. temperature, symptoms), and receive temperature monitoring and symptom checks at the beginning of each shift, and at least every 12 hours during a shift.
 4. Employees must wear a facemask while working.
 5. To the extent possible, employees working under these conditions should preferentially be assigned to patients at lower risk for severe complications, as opposed to higher-risk patients (e.g. severely immunocompromised, elderly).
 6. Employees allowed to return to work under these conditions should maintain self-quarantine when not at work.
 7. At any time, if an employee working under these conditions develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they should immediately stop work and isolate at home. All staff with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should be immediately referred for diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2.
- C. EEDA may allow personnel with confirmed or suspected COVID-19, whether direct care professionals, clinical staff or other facility staff, to continue to work if all the following conditions are met:
1. To be eligible to return to work, personnel with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 must have maintained isolation for at least 10 days after illness onset, must have been fever-free for at least 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications, and must have other symptoms improving.
 2. Personnel who are severely immunocompromised as a result of medical conditions or medications should consult with a healthcare provider before returning to work. Providers should consider seeking consultation from an infectious disease expert for these cases.
 3. If a staff member is asymptomatic but tested and found to be positive, they must maintain isolation for at least 10 days after the date of the positive test and, if they develop symptoms during that time, they must maintain isolation for at least 10 days after illness onset and must have been at least 72 hours fever-free without fever reducing medications and with other symptoms improving.
 4. Personnel who are recovering from COVID-19 and return to work after 10 days should wear a facemask while working until symptoms have completely resolved, so long as mild symptoms are improving, if they persist.
 5. In the rare instance when a staff member with unique or irreplaceable skills critical to the care of individuals is affected by COVID-19, the healthcare entity may contact OPWDD to discuss alternative measures to allow such staff member to safely return to work before 10 days have elapsed.

**Hospital Discharges and Admissions to Certified Residential Facilities
(Attachment R – 4.11.2020 - Advisory: Hospital Discharges and Admissions to Certified Residential Facilities)**

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, EEDA will have a process in place to expedite the return of asymptomatic residents from the hospital. Individuals who live in one of EEDA’s residences are deemed appropriate for return to their OPWDD certified residence upon a determination by the hospital physician, or designee, that the individual is medically stable for return, in consultation with EEDA. Hospital discharge planners must confirm to EEDA, by telephone, that the resident is medically stable for discharge and whether the individual is asymptomatic. Comprehensive written discharge instructions will be provided by the hospital prior to the transport of a resident. No individual shall be denied re-admission or admission to EEDA’s residence based solely on a confirmed or suspected diagnosis of COVID-19. Any denial of admission or re-admission must be based on EEDA’s inability to provide the level of care required by the prospective individual, pursuant to the hospital’s discharge instructions, and based on the EEDA’s current certification. Additionally, EEDA is prohibited from requiring a hospitalized individual, who is determined medically stable, to be tested for COVID-19 prior to admission or readmission. Residents who are symptomatic should only be discharged to their residence if there are clinical staff available who are capable of attending to the medical needs of a symptomatic resident, pursuant to hospital discharge instructions.

**COVID-19 Release from Home Isolation
(Attachment S - 3.25.2020 – Health Advisory: COVID-19 Release from Home Isolation)
Release of Symptomatic Individuals on Isolation**

1. Symptomatic individuals who were confirmed as having COVID-19 may discontinue home isolation once they meet the following conditions:
 - a. At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; AND
 - b. Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); AND
 - c. At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
2. This approach will prevent most, but may not prevent all, instances of secondary spread. The risk of transmission after recovery is likely substantially less than that during illness.
 - a. To further reduce the risk, individuals returning from isolation should continue to practice proper hygiene protocols (e.g., hand washing, covering coughs) and avoid prolonged, close contact with vulnerable persons (e.g. compromised immune system, underlying illness, 70 years of age or older).

Release of Asymptomatic Individuals on Isolation

1. Asymptomatic individuals who were confirmed as having COVID-19 may discontinue home isolation under the following conditions:
 - a. At least 7 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test; AND
 - b. The individual has had no subsequent illness.

Reporting and Notification Requirements

(Attachment T - Covid-19 Phone Notification Requirements for OPWDD Providers 03.19.2020) (Attachment U - Covid-19 IRMA Entry Provider Guidance 03.17.2020)

The following steps must be taken when any individual living in a residential facility, certified or operated by OPWDD or receiving services in a certified setting or program, is identified as having a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19:

1. EEDA is required to immediately notify the OPWDD Incident Management Unit (IMU) of any quarantine and/or isolation orders served by their LHD regarding an individual served by their program. The manager of the program will forward all required information to the Compliance Department to be reported and entered into IRMA.
(Attachment V - COVID-19 Individual Notification Requirements - 4.20.2020)
(Attachment W - COVID-19 Staff Notification Requirements - 4.20.2020)
2. The reporting process is outlined below:
 - a. Between the hours of 8 am and 4 pm (Regular Business Hours), Monday through Friday, and not a NYS holiday - Contact the appropriate Incident Compliance Officer assigned to your region, by calling 518-473-7032.
 - b. After 4 pm Monday through Friday, 24 hours a day on weekends and on NYS holidays - Call the OPWDD Off-Hours Incident Notification phone line at 1-888-479-6763.
3. Within 24 hours, enter a report into the OPWDD Incident Report and Management Application (IRMA).

Requests for Assistance

EEDA will contact OPWDD for assistance if there are any challenges associated with the following:

1. Shelter Requirements for quarantine and/or isolation
2. Training issues
3. Procuring Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Cleaning & Disinfection Products or other supplies and/or materials.
4. If unable to procure required PPE and/or Cleaning & Disinfection products, contact the local County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to request assistance.

Protocol for COVID-19 Testing Applicable to All Health Care Providers and Local Health Departments

(Attachment X – 4.26.2020 - Updated Interim Guidance: Protocol for COVID-19 Testing Applicable to All Health Care Providers and Local Health Departments)

Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the NYSDOH continues to monitor the situation and work to expand COVID-19 diagnostic and serologic testing for New Yorkers. Appropriate and efficient standards for testing are an essential component of a multi-layered strategy to prevent sustained spread of COVID-19 in NYS and to ensure resources are being efficiently and equitably distributed. NYS continues to increase testing capacity for COVID-19 on a daily basis. However, until such time as we are at full capacity, this guidance is necessary to ensure that NYS prioritizes resources to meet the most urgent public health need. Diagnostic and/or serologic testing for COVID-19 shall be authorized by a health care provider when:

1. An individual is symptomatic or has a history of symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. fever, cough, and/or trouble breathing), particularly if the individual is 70 years of age or older,

the individual has a compromised immune system, or the individual has an underlying health condition); or

2. An individual has had close (i.e. within six feet) or proximate contact with a person known to be positive with COVID-19; or
3. An individual is subject to a precautionary or mandatory quarantine; or
4. An individual is employed as a health care worker, first responder, or other essential worker who directly interacts with the public while working; or
5. An individual presents with a case where the facts and circumstances – as determined by the treating clinician in consultation with state or local department of health officials – warrant testing.

Based on individual clinical factors, health care providers should use clinical judgment to determine the appropriate COVID-19 test(s) (i.e. diagnostic or serologic) that should be obtained.

All individuals in the EEDA residential facilities will receive serologic testing to determine if the antibodies for COVID-19 are present.

Testing Prioritization

On April 17, 2020, Executive Order 202.19 was issued requiring the establishment of a single, statewide coordinated testing prioritization process that shall require all laboratories in the state, both public and private, that conduct COVID-19 diagnostic testing, to complete such COVID-19 diagnostic testing only in accordance with such process.

To support the statewide coordinated testing prioritization, health care providers should take the following prioritization into consideration when ordering a COVID-19 test:

1. Symptomatic individuals, particularly if the individual is part of a high-risk population, including persons who are hospitalized; persons residing in nursing homes, long-term care facilities, or other congregate care settings; persons who have a compromised immune system; persons who have an underlying health condition; and persons who are 70 years of age or older.
2. Individuals who have had close (i.e. within six feet) or proximate contact with a person known to be positive with COVID-19.
3. Individuals who are employed as health care workers, first responders, or in any position within a nursing home, long-term care facility, or other congregate care setting, including but not limited to:
 - a. Correction/Parole/Probation Officers,
 - b. Direct Care Providers,
 - c. Firefighters,
 - d. Health Care Practitioners, Professionals, Aides, and Support Staff (e.g. Physicians, Nurses, Public Health Personnel),
 - e. Medical Specialists,
 - f. Nutritionists and Dietitians,
 - g. Occupational/Physical/Recreational/Speech Therapists,
 - h. Paramedics/Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs),
 - i. Police Officers,

- j. Psychologists/Psychiatrists,
- k. Residential Care Program Managers
- 4. Individuals who are employed as essential employees who directly interact with the public while working, including but not limited to:
 - a. Animal Care Workers (e.g. Veterinarians),
 - b. Automotive Service and Repair Workers,
 - c. Bank Tellers and Workers,
 - d. Building Code Enforcement Officers,
 - e. Child Care Workers,
 - f. Client-Facing Case Managers and Coordinators,
 - g. Counselors (e.g. Mental Health, Addiction, Youth, Vocational, Crisis, etc.),
 - h. Delivery Workers,
 - i. Dentists and Dental Hygienists,
 - j. Essential Construction Workers at Occupied Residences or Buildings,
 - k. Faith-Based Leaders (e.g. Chaplains, Clergy Members,
 - l. Field Investigators/Regulators for Health and Safety,
 - m. Food Service Workers,
 - n. Funeral Home Workers,
 - o. Hotel/Motel Workers,
 - p. Human Services Providers,
 - q. Laundry and Dry Cleaning Workers,
 - r. Mail and Shipping Workers,
 - s. Maintenance and Janitorial/Cleaning Workers,
 - t. Optometrists, Opticians, and Supporting Staff ,
 - u. Retail Workers at Essential Businesses (e.g. Grocery Stores, Pharmacies, Convenience Stores, Gas Stations, Hardware Stores),
 - v. Security Guards and Personnel,
 - w. Shelter Workers and Homelessness Support Staff,
 - x. Social Workers,
 - y. Teachers/Professors/Educators,
 - z. Transit Workers (e.g. Airports, Railways, Buses, and For-Hire Vehicles),
 - aa. Trash and Recycling Workers,
 - bb. Utility Workers.

RETURNING TO WORK OR PROGRAMS

Protocols for Offices

As per New York State's DOH COVID-19 guidelines, EEDA is ensuring the Health and Safety of our employees by implementing protocols for all staff and visitors upon entry to the building. Staff are encouraged to wash their hands frequently and with purpose. EEDA is currently operating with modified employee schedules; staff should only enter an agency building during assigned schedule to ensure adequate distancing throughout the building. Any person with fever (100.0) or signs and symptoms of COVID-like illness should immediately contact their supervisor and will NOT be allowed into the building.

The following protocols must be followed while you are in any EEDA office setting. **All Staff/Visitors MUST wear a face covering, such as a mask, at all times when entering or exiting the building, as well as when in any common areas of the building.**

1. **Entering/Exiting Building**
 - a. PPE: Each staff will receive a reusable mask and/or a disposable mask. This can be replenished as needed.
 - b. Expectation is that all staff will wear a mask or other face covering at all times unless at their workstation and at least 6ft away from any other person.
 - c. Gloves are not being distributed for staff/visitor use; washing hands is recommended as often as possible. When not feasible, hand sanitizer is placed throughout the building.
2. **Lobby Area**
 - a. There is a table in the lobby with the Health Screening forms, masks, clean pens, a jar for used pens, hand sanitizer and a thermometer. Staff are to avoid reception whenever possible.
 - b. All staff entering the building must sign in and answer all of the questions on the Health Screening form (**Attachment I**) before leaving the lobby area. Questions to be asked upon entry: Temperature, Cough, Shortness of Breath, and contact with COVID.
3. **Reception/Visitors**
 - a. No more than three people will be allowed in Reception at a time, including the receptionist.
 - b. Receptionist must wear a mask at all times when people are within 6 feet of them.
 - c. All visitors must follow same protocols as staff for monitoring and PPE.
 - d. When a visitor enters reception, they must use hand sanitizer and put on a mask if they do not have one on prior to beginning the screening process.
 - e. Each visitor must take their temperature and document answers on the Health Screening form.
 - f. Pens to sign screening documents will be sanitized after each use.
4. **Elevator/Stairs**
 - a. Disinfecting solution or wipes will be accessible to use when pressing buttons and/or opening stairwell and/or office doors.
 - b. No more than 2 staff should be in the elevator at any given time.
 - c. Staff should not congregate in the stairwell.
5. **Common Areas** (Includes Kitchens, Meeting rooms, Copy Machines, etc.)
 - a. A daily cleaning schedule has been developed and all staff will be assigned cleaning tasks throughout the building.
 - b. Staff are to maintain safe distance (minimum 6ft) at all times, including in common areas such as kitchens, meeting rooms, at copy machines, etc.
 - c. Any surfaces touched, should be wiped with disinfectant before and after use.
 - d. To keep the spread of germs to a minimum, the refrigerators, microwaves and coffee makers will be available, but must be wiped down after each use until further notice. Staff are encouraged to bring their own coffee, utilize insulated lunch bags, or bring lunch/food items that don't require the use of the refrigerator and/or microwave.
 - e. Whenever possible, meetings should be held virtually.
 - f. Staff should not congregate in common areas.
6. **Bathrooms**
 - a. Bathrooms need to be cleaned and sanitized daily, or more often when possible.
 - b. Staff/visitors are encouraged to utilize a paper towel when opening doors.

7. **Workstation/Office Space**

- a. No more than 1 person working per office if there is not at least 6 feet between work spaces; schedules must be prearranged to ensure appropriate social distancing.
- b. Staff are encouraged to disinfect their workstation/work area daily, including phone, desk, chair, etc.
- c. Staff are discouraged from using other people's phones, desks, offices, or other work supplies unless absolutely necessary.
- d. Staff may close doors to their offices when inside to further create safe distancing.

8. **Outside Facility**

- a. Breaks or smoking areas must also maintain at least 6ft distance and masks should be worn whenever possible. Smoking is still only permitted at designated areas.

Reopening Day Program Operations

(Attachment Y – 7.16.2020 - Interim Guidance Regarding the Reopening of Day Services Certified by the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities)

EEDA will follow the guidelines for OPWDD's certified day programs and services, both site and community based including Day Habilitation and Respite to resume operations safely and consistently with the Governor's NY Forward initiative. EEDA is committed to resuming full access to services for individuals, as well as to maintaining health and safety standards, social distancing directives, and precautions to help protect against the spread of COVID-19.

Effective July 22, 2020, EEDA will follow OPWDD's guidelines that set forth minimum requirements based on best-known public health practices at time of the State's reopening. The documentation and sources referenced in these guidelines are subject to change. The day programs responsible for implementation and monitoring of these guidelines are required to adhere to all applicable local, state and federal requirements, remain well-informed with any relevant updates and to incorporate as needed into operating practices and site-specific Safety Plan. Each day program has authority to implement additional precautions and/or increased restrictions necessary to meet program specific and individual specific needs.

Standards for Reopening Day Program Operations

OPWDD certified day programs may only reopen if they meet minimum State and Federal safety requirements as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), United States Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), New York State Department of Health (DOH) and OPWDD while also meeting the minimum standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The requirements contained within this guidance apply to all EEDA day programs and services which resume operation during the continued COVID-19 public health emergency, until amended or rescinded by the State. EEDA shall be responsible for meeting these minimum standards. Please note that where guidance in this document differs from other guidance documents issued by the State or Federal governments, the more recent guidance shall apply.

Please note that any outdoor space that belongs to and/or is exclusively used by EEDA is not considered a public place for the purposes of this guidance. Individuals receiving services are not

required to wear a face covering when utilizing the outdoor space that belongs to and/or is exclusively used by the day program, as long as social distancing from other day program participants and staff and essential visitors can be maintained.

Signage must be posted throughout the certified site addressing critical COVID-19 transmission prevention and containment. Programs can use the DOH issued signage or develop customized signage specific to their day program needs and location. Signage must include guidance regarding:

1. Social distancing requirements
2. Use of mask or cloth face-covering requirements.
3. Proper storage, usage and disposal of PPE.
4. Symptom monitoring and COVID-19 exposure reporting requirements.
5. Proper hand washing and appropriate use of hand sanitizer.

Required Day Program Reopening Plans

All day programs must develop a safety plan for reopening that addresses the requirements contained herein and provide said plan to the OPWDD Division of Quality Improvement. Plans should be submitted prior to the reopening of the day program and must include the attached attestation, agreeing to implement all required safety precautions and guidelines.

All day programs and the responsible parties must maintain and have available completed safety plans on site.

Entrance to Site Based/Participation in Community Based Programs

1. All staff and individuals, as well as any essential visitors, must be screened prior to entry into the day program site and monitored for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 thereafter.
2. Each day program must designate a supervisory level staff or health care professional to conduct daily screenings. Screeners should be provided and use PPE, including at a minimum, a face mask and gloves and may include a gown, and/or a face shield. The screener must document health screenings of all individuals and staff. Staff screenings will document if the screening was passed or the staff was sent home, no health information will be recorded. All staff screenings will be secured in a locked area.
3. Screeners must require individuals and staff to self-report, to the extent they are able, any changes in symptom status throughout the day and identify a contact person who staff and/or individuals should inform if they later are experiencing COVID-19-related symptoms.
4. The health screening assessment should ask about:
 - a. COVID-19 symptoms in the past 14 days,
 - b. positive COVID-19 test in the past 14 days,
 - c. close contact with a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case in the past 14 days and/or,
 - d. travel from within one of the designated states with significant community spread.
5. Assessment responses must be reviewed every day and such review must be documented.
6. Any individual or staff exhibiting signs or symptoms of COVID-19 upon arrival will not be allowed to enter the program building. They will be required to return home until they are fever free for 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications (e.g. Advil, Tylenol)

7. If symptoms begin while at the day program, the individual or staff must be sent home as soon as possible. The program must keep sick individuals and staff separate from well individuals and staff.
8. Any individual or staff sent home should be instructed to contact their healthcare provider for assessment and testing. The day program must immediately notify the local health department and OPWDD about the suspected case.
9. The day program should provide the individual or staff with written information on healthcare and testing resources, refer to DOH Testing guidance.
 - a. Individuals sent home from program shall consult with their healthcare practitioner prior to returning to the program;
 - b. Staff sent home shall comply with appropriate return to work guidance and shall consult with their supervisor prior to returning to work.
10. Individuals may not return to or attend the day program while a member of their household or certified residence are being quarantined or isolated.
 - a. If an individual or staff member is identified with COVID-19, the day program must seek guidance from State or local health officials to determine when the individual/staff can return to the program and what additional steps are needed.
11. All staff and individuals must perform hand hygiene immediately upon entering the program and throughout the day.
12. Day program services must designate a site safety monitor whose responsibilities include continuous compliance with all aspects of the site safety plan.
13. Day programs must maintain a log of every person, including staff and essential visitors, who may have close contact with other individuals at the facility; excluding deliveries that are performed with appropriate PPE or through contactless means. Log should contain contact information, such that all contacts may be identified, traced and notified in the event someone is diagnosed with COVID-19.
14. Providers of day program services must cooperate with local health department contact tracing efforts.
15. Staff should take the following actions related to COVID-19 symptoms and contact:
 - a. If a staff has COVID-19 symptoms AND EITHER tests positive for COVID-19 OR did not receive a test, the staff may only return to work after completing a 14-day self-quarantine. If a staff is critical to the operation or safety of a facility, the day program provider may consult their local health department and the most up-to-date CDC and DOH standards on the minimum number of days to quarantine before a staff is safely able to return to work with additional precautions to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
 - b. If a staff does NOT have COVID-19 symptoms BUT tests positive for COVID-19, the staff may only return to work after completing a 14-day self-quarantine. If a staff is critical to the operation or safety of a facility, the day program provider may consult their local health department and the most up-to-date CDC and DOH standards on the minimum number of days to quarantine before a staff is safely able to return to work with additional precautions to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
 - c. If a staff has had close contact with a person with COVID-19 for a prolonged period of time AND is symptomatic, the staff should notify the day program and follow the above protocol for a positive case.

- d. If a staff has had close contact with a person with COVID-19 for a prolonged period of time AND is NOT symptomatic, and the inability to temporarily furlough that employee would cause a hardship to the employer/program, the staff should notify the day program and adhere to the following practices prior to and during their work shift, which should be documented by the day program:
 - i. Regular monitoring: As long as the staff does not have a temperature or symptoms, they should self-monitor consistent with the day program's health policies.
 - ii. Wear a mask: The staff should wear a surgical face mask at all times while in the day program.
 - iii. Social distance: staff should continue social distancing practices, including maintaining, at least, six feet distance from others.
 - iv. Disinfect and clean facility spaces: Continue to clean and disinfect all areas such as offices, bathrooms, classrooms, common areas, and shared electronic equipment routinely.
16. Entrance into sites will be restricted to essential staff responsible for the direct provision of service not amenable to delivery via telehealth alternatives or those persons required to ensure continued health and safety operations (e.g. PPE supply delivery or work control etc.). Post signage alerting nonessential visitors are not allowed.
17. In the event an individual, staff or anyone they reside with are placed on quarantine or isolation, the responsible party (i.e. self, guardian, residence manager etc.) must notify the day program immediately and must suspend attending day program until they are medically cleared to return to work/program.

Social Distancing Requirements

All day program providers must ensure that, for any programming occurring indoors, capacity is limited to the number of participants and required staff which ensures the following mitigation strategies are adhered to:

1. At least six feet of physical distance is maintained among individuals and staff, unless safety of the core activity requires a shorter distance or an individual's treatment plan requires that closer contact be maintained with a staff member.
2. All staff must wear an appropriate face mask or covering at all times at work, consistent with all current Executive Orders and OPWDD guidelines, unless medically contraindicated.
 - a. Acceptable face coverings for COVID-19 include but are not limited to cloth-based face coverings and disposable masks that cover both the mouth and nose.
 - b. Cloth, disposable, or other homemade face coverings are not acceptable face coverings for workplace activities that typically require a higher degree of protection for personal protective equipment due to the nature of the work. For those activities, N95 respirators or other personal protective equipment (PPE) used under existing industry standards should continue to be used, as is defined in accordance with OSHA guidelines.
3. Individuals receiving services must wear face coverings, if they can medically tolerate one whenever social distancing cannot be achieved.
4. Programs must ensure that groupings of staff/individuals receiving services are as static as possible by having the same group of individuals work with the same staff whenever

and wherever possible. Group size must be limited to no more than fifteen (15) individuals receiving services. The restriction on group size does not include employees/staff. Programs must ensure that different stable groups of up to 15 individuals have no or minimal contact with one another nor utilize common spaces at the same time, to the greatest extent possible.

5. Programs should maintain a staffing plan that does not require employees to “float” between different rooms or groups of individuals, unless such rotation is critical to safely staff individuals due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g. staff absence).
6. Modify the use and/or restrict the number of program rooms and seating areas to allow for social distancing of at least six feet apart in all directions (i.e. 36 square feet). When distancing is not feasible between workspaces, the program must provide and require the use of face coverings or enact physical barriers, such as plastic shielding walls where they would not affect air flow, heating, cooling, or ventilation.
 - a. Physical barriers should be put in place in when possible. Options include but are not limited to strip curtains, plexiglass or similar materials, or other impermeable dividers or partitions. Use in accordance with OSHA guidelines.
 - b. Shared workspaces or equipment must be cleaned and disinfected between use.
 - c. Prohibit the use of tightly confined spaces (e.g. supply closets, equipment storage areas, kitchens, vehicles, or restrooms) by more than one person at a time, unless both individuals and staff sharing such space are wearing acceptable face coverings. However, even with face coverings in use, occupancy must never exceed 50% of the maximum capacity of the space or vehicle, unless it is designed for use by a single occupant.
7. Programs should increase ventilation with outdoor air to the greatest extent possible (e.g. open program room and vehicle windows and prop open doors and/or open as frequently as possible), unless such air circulation poses a safety or health risk (e.g., allowing pollens in or exacerbating asthma symptoms) to individuals using the facility.
8. Programs should take additional measures to prevent congregation in lobbies, hallways, and in elevator waiting areas and limit density in elevators, such as enabling the use of stairs.
9. Implement additional measures to prevent congregation in elevator waiting areas and limit density in elevators, such as enabling the use of stairs, when possible.
10. Reduce bi-directional foot traffic using tape or signs with arrows in narrow aisles, hallways, or spaces, and post signage and distance markers denoting spaces of six feet in all commonly used areas and any areas in which lines are commonly formed or people may congregate (e.g. entrance/exit into the facility, meal areas, etc.).
11. Social distancing may not always be possible when caring for individuals with higher medical, behavioral or adaptive support needs. Their specific treatment plans may necessitate physical contact to ensure health and safety during activities of daily living (e.g. toileting, eating etc.), behavior intervention techniques (e.g. physical restraint) or medical treatments (e.g. administration of daily medication or first aid etc.). All appropriate personal protective equipment and hygiene must be utilized. Providers are encouraged to work with staff who are unable to medically tolerate wearing a mask to temporarily reassign them to work duties which are capable of being completed while maintaining social distance from vulnerable populations.

Gatherings in Enclosed Spaces

1. Prohibit gatherings of more than 15 people (excluding staff) in a shared space, at any given time.
2. Rooms should be reconfigured or repurposed to limit density and expand usable space.
3. Program rooms should include the same grouping of individuals with the same staff each day to the extent possible and avoid crossing programs with other rooms.
4. Space out seating (6 feet apart) and use floor markers to designate six-foot distances. Remove additional seating above designated room capacity.
5. Day programs must provide adequate space for required staff to adhere to social distancing while completing independent tasks (i.e. paperwork) and when taking breaks (e.g. eating). Break times should be staggered to maintain social distancing.
6. Shared food and beverages are prohibited. Food brought from home should require limited preparation at the day program site (i.e. heating in microwave) and be packed appropriately. All reusable food utensils and storage containers should be washed in the dishwasher on the hottest wash and dry setting.
7. Buffet-style dining is prohibited. Discontinue use of large cafeterias for meals, unless social distancing can be maintained, and stagger mealtimes to allow for social distancing and disinfection in-between use.

Day Program Schedules and Activities

Initially, day program capacity should be prioritized for individuals who are best served onsite due their specific clinical needs. Providers should allow high risk individuals, who prefer to remain at home, to participate in less intensive in-home supports of a shorter duration and encourage continued use of telehealth to supplement service delivery. For those individuals resuming site-based day services, programs must implement measures to foster social distancing and disinfection in-between use via the following considerations:

1. Adjusting day program hours to allow blocks of service provision (e.g. 9 AM to 1 PM and 2 PM to 6 PM).
2. Limiting staff on site to those essential to direct service provision.
3. Prioritizing tasks and activities that most easily adhere to social distancing.
4. For sport and athletic activities, programs must keep stable groups of individuals together and separated from other groups and should focus on activities with little or no physical contact (e.g. walking or hiking) and which do not rely on shared equipment.
5. For food services, programs should:
 - a. Serve individual portions;
 - b. Avoid use of communal dining areas and substitute eating outdoors or in a classroom, whenever possible;
 - c. Keep stable groups of individuals separated from one another;
 - d. Consider staggering mealtimes to reduce occupancy within an indoor space or congregation within an outdoor area; and
 - e. Separate tables with seating at least six feet apart from other tables, as feasible.

Personal Protective Equipment

Day programs must have an adequate supply of required PPE on site. All required staff and essential visitors are required to wear a face covering or mask and will be provided one for use

onsite at no cost. All day programs and staff should comply with OSHA standards applicable to each specific work environment.

1. Staff may choose to provide their own face covering, however are not required to. Acceptable face coverings may include, surgical masks, N95 respirators, face shields and/or cloth masks (e.g. homemade sewn, quick cut, bandana). Any personally supplied face coverings must maintain standards for professional/workplace attire. Cloth, disposable or homemade masks are not appropriate for workplace activities that require a higher degree of protection for personal protective equipment due to the nature of the work.
 - a. Face coverings must be cleaned or replaced after use and may not be shared.
 - b. All staff must be trained on proper use of PPE including when to use and donning, doffing, disposing and/or reusing and sanitizing when appropriate. Documentation of such trainings will be retained in the employee's personnel file.

Hygiene and Cleaning

Strict adherence to hygiene and sanitation requirements is required to reduce transmission as advised by DOH "Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection of Public and Private Facilities for COVID-19," and the "STOP THE SPREAD" poster, as applicable.

All site based day programs, and non-site-based programs to the extent it is applicable, are required to implement the following minimum standards:

1. Maintain an adequate stock of cleaning and EPA approved disinfecting agents.
2. Conduct frequent cleaning and rigorous disinfection of high-risk areas (i.e. bathrooms, nursing stations) and high touch surfaces (i.e. shared equipment or supplies).
 - a. Adhere to proper dwell times for all cleaners, sanitizers and disinfectants per manufacturer recommendations as indicated on the product label and ensure adequate ventilation to prevent inhaling toxic fumes. Use only EPA registered products for disinfecting non-porous surfaces.
 - b. Maintain at each site cleaning logs indicating the date, time, and scope of cleaning.
 - c. Cleaning products, sanitizers and disinfectants must be kept secure and out of reach of individuals who may misuse (i.e. consume, dump out etc.). Products should be locked in a separate supply closet or cabinet, with only staff having key access. After sanitizing or disinfecting any gloves, paper towels or other disposable items used will be immediately discarded. These should be tied in a trash bag and removed from the environment to prevent individuals from accessing potentially contaminated or hazardous materials.
3. Limit use of shared objects/equipment and clean then sanitize after each use. Items that cannot be cleaned and sanitized should not be used (i.e. soft toys, cloth placemats, etc.) Individuals should not be permitted to bring such personal items from home.
4. Put in place reasonable measures to limit the sharing of objects, such as electronic equipment, arts and craft materials, touchscreens, as well as the touching of shared surfaces; or, require employees to wear gloves (trade-appropriate or medical) when in contact with shared objects or frequently touched surfaces; or, require workers and individuals to practice hand hygiene before and after contact.
5. If cleaning or disinfection products or the act of cleaning and disinfecting causes safety hazards, staff must use PPE as needed followed by hand hygiene. Use cleaning/disinfecting wipes for electronics (do not use sprays). Limit the number of

people using the equipment when proper cleaning/disinfecting of such items are not possible.

6. Provide and maintain hand hygiene stations throughout each location where possible to include:
 - a. Hand washing: soap, running warm water, and disposable paper towels.
 - b. Hand sanitizing: alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol for areas where hand washing facilities may not be available or practical. Hand sanitizer should be available and utilized frequently throughout community based services.
 - c. All staff and individuals should wash their hands frequently with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds upon arriving to any site-based programming, before handling food, before and after eating and drinking, smoking/vaping, using the bathroom, after touching shared objects or surfaces, after touching their eyes, nose or mouth, or after cleaning, sanitizing or disinfecting surfaces or when hands are visibly dirty. Use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol are also acceptable. Use of hand sanitizer by individuals should be supervised as needed by staff.
7. CDC guidelines on “Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility” should be followed if someone is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 infection:
 - a. Close off areas used by the person who is sick. The provider does not have to necessarily close operations, if they can close off the affected areas.
 - b. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
 - c. Wait 24 hours before you clean or disinfect. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible.
 - d. Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick such as offices, classrooms, bathrooms, common areas, and shared equipment.
 - e. Once the area has been appropriately disinfected, it can be opened for use. Employees and individuals without close contact with the person who is sick can return to the area immediately after disinfection.
8. Provider should follow NYS DOH and OPWDD guidance related to reporting and contact tracing in the case of a positive or presumed positive COVID-19 individual or staff.

Transportation

All certified day programs must ensure that the following measures are in place in order to transport individuals to/from day programming:

1. Only individuals and staff traveling to and from the same day program should be transported together; individuals or staff from other day programs should not be intermingled for purposes of transportation at this time; individuals transported together are encouraged to be cohorted for purposes for day programming also, in order to further reduce intermingling;
2. Capacity on buses, vans, and other vehicles transporting individuals from multiple residences should be reduced to 50% of total capacity to maximize social distancing and reduce COVID-19 transmission risks;
3. Individuals and staff who reside/work together in the same home may be transported together to day program(s) in the same vehicle without a vehicle capacity reduction;
4. Consider staggering arrival and departure times to reduce density during these times;

5. To the extent possible, individuals and staff from different households should restrict close contact by not sitting near each other or the driver. The use of directional tape and signage can assist in accomplishing this. Additionally, if there are multiple doors in a bus or van, one-way entering and exiting should be utilized. Individuals should be directed to not exit the vehicle at once, instead following driver or staff instruction on exiting one person at a time;
6. To the extent they can medically tolerate one, individuals, staff, and the driver must wear face coverings at all times in the vehicle. Social distancing must be maintained for individuals who cannot tolerate wearing a mask and, when possible, such individuals should be transported alone or with members of the same household. Staff who cannot medically tolerate the use of a face covering should not be assigned to transport individuals at this time;
7. After each trip is completed, the interior of the vehicle should be thoroughly cleaned before additional individuals are transported; and
8. Where appropriate and safe, windows should be rolled down to permit air flow.

Tracing and Tracking

Providers of day program services must notify the local health department and OPWDD immediately upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 test result by an individual or staff at their site.

1. In the case of a staff or visitor testing positive, the provider of day program services must cooperate with the local health department to trace all contacts in the workplace and notify the health department of all staff, individuals and visitors who entered the facility dating back to 48 hours before the staff began experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or tested positive, whichever is earlier, but maintain confidentiality as required by federal and state law and regulations.
2. Local health departments will implement monitoring and movement restrictions of infected or exposed persons including home isolation or quarantine.
3. Staff who are alerted that they have come into close or proximate contact with a person with COVID-19, and have been alerted via tracing, tracking or other mechanism, are required to self-report to their employer at the time of alert and shall follow all required protocols as if they had been exposed at work.

Visitation within the IRAs

Visitor Protocols

On March 18, 2020, OPWDD issued a Health Advisory: COVID-19 Guidance for Operators of Individualized Residential Alternatives (IRAs), Community Residences (CRs) and Private Schools Regarding Visitation which suspended visitation within our IRAs. On June 17, 2020 NYS lifted the suspension of visits with visits beginning on June 19, 2020 with specific guidelines that must be followed. (**Attachment Z - 6.18.2020-interim-visitation-guidance**)(**Attachment AA - EEDA Visitation Letter Bulleted 06-18-2020 FINAL**). OPWDD also provided signs to put at the doors of the facilities to stop visitors from entering without prior approval. (**Attachment BB - 3066_coronavirus_novisitors_poster**)

The opportunity for family members to visit must be done in a manner that continues to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and ensure the health and wellbeing of all individuals living in EEDA's

IRAs. After evaluation by OPWDD, in collaboration with the New York State Department of Health (DOH) and participating certified residential facilities, such as EEDA this guidance may be modified. It is anticipated that this is the first phase of visits and are subject to change as necessary. In order to be eligible for visitation under these guidelines, EEDA must attest to its ability to adhere to the following requirements:

1. Visits can be scheduled seven days a week from 10:00 am until 8:00 pm. Visits shall be staggered so as not to have multiple families visiting in a shared space at one time and to ensure adequate time to clean any common areas or high touch surfaces between visits.
2. In order to allow for fairness in scheduling, family members need to schedule visits at least one day in advance with the EEDA Residential Managers. No unannounced or unscheduled visits will be allowed.
3. The Residential Managers should thoroughly discuss the potential risks and benefits of the visitor's presence when the family is scheduling the visit and with the individual ahead of a scheduled visit. They must also notify visitors, at the time they are scheduling a visit, whether there are any positive or suspected cases of COVID-19 in the home.
4. Visitation must not occur with any individuals who are currently in quarantine due to exposure for COVID-19 or isolation for a positive COVID-19 test.
5. Visits should last no more than one hour.
6. All other individuals living in the IRA should be notified ahead of time that visitors will be present and advised how to remain socially distant from them.
7. Family members are able to bring snacks or a meal to share with their loved one but EEDA asks that they follow the six foot social distancing recommendation while eating.
8. The visits will be limited to two family members at a time per visit, and each visitor must be 18 years or older.
9. Visits are to be limited to designated areas only where separation from other residents can be safely implemented. Family members will be asked not to access other areas of the residence. The preferred designated meeting areas will be outside of the residence on the back deck or lawn. If an outside visit is not feasible (i.e. rain), other arrangements for a meeting place inside the residence will be determined by the supervisory staff. Recreation rooms and individuals' bedrooms are other options for visits.
10. Staff may be present during the visits, depending on the needs of the individuals.
11. Visitation remains prohibited anywhere except within sight of the residential facility and shall not include sitting in a non-agency vehicle or leaving the premises unmonitored by staff.
12. Upon arrival, each visitor must undergo symptoms and temperature checks by EEDA staff, and shall be denied visitation if they report any COVID-19 exposure or symptoms during the prior fourteen days, or have a temperature higher than 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit.
13. All family members will be expected to wear masks and must be properly worn throughout the entirety of the visit. If they do not have a mask, EEDA staff will provide one. Visitors who refuse to wear a face mask must be asked to leave the facility.
14. Family members must maintain a six foot social distance from individuals when possible. Individuals will also be encouraged to maintain the six foot social distance and wear a mask.

15. There is no limit to the number of visits that a family may schedule, but EEDA asks that the families be respectful of the other individuals in the IRA and the access for other families for visits.
16. Facilities shall maintain a daily log of all visitors, which shall include names and contact information, as well as the location within the facility/property that visitation occurred.
17. The designated areas will be cleaned and disinfected after the visit is completed.

**Individuals Returning to the IRA after Extended Home Visits
(Attachment CC – 7.10.2020 - Reintroduction of Individuals to Certified Residences after Extended Home Visits)**

On March 24, 2020, the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) issued “Health Advisory: COVID-19 Suspension of Community Outings and Home Visits”, which suspended community outings and home visits for individuals living in certified residential facilities. OPWDD recognizes the need for individuals to return to certified residential facilities, following extended stays with family. Effective July 15, 2020 for regions of the State that have entered into Phase Four in accordance the New York Forward Reopening Plan, individuals may return to their residence in accordance with the requirements herein.

To safely accept an individual back to the home, the following conditions must be met:

1. In the 14 days preceding the individual’s return, the residential facility must have no known or suspected cases of COVID-19;
2. The individual must have not knowingly been in close or proximate contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or who has or had symptoms of COVID-19; and
3. Confirm that for the 14 days prior to the individual’s return to the facility, the individual confirm in writing that the individual did not display any of the following symptoms in the 14 days prior to return:
 - a. Fever of 100.0°F or greater;
 - b. Cough;
 - c. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
 - d. Chills;
 - e. Muscle aches;
 - f. Headache;
 - g. Sore throat;
 - h. Abdominal pain;
 - i. Vomiting;
 - j. Diarrhea;
 - k. Runny nose;
 - l. Fatigue;
 - m. Wheezing; and/or
 - n. New loss of taste or smell.
4. If any of these symptoms are noted, the family should be referred to their medical provider or the Local Department of Health for assessment and testing.
5. Facilities should observe returning residents for signs and symptoms of illness for 14 days after return to the residential facility.

6. Please note that an individual returning to a residential facility following an extended home visit may need to follow precautionary quarantine measures upon return, which should be implemented in collaboration with the Local Department of Health.

**Home Visits for Individuals Residing in OPWDD Certified Residential Facilities
(Attachment DD – 7.10.2020 - Home Visits for Individuals Residing in OPWDD Certified Residential Facilities)**

OPWDD’s March 24, 2020 guidance related to home visits is hereby rescinded and replaced with the following guidance. Effective July 15, 2020 for regions of the State that have entered into Phase Four in accordance the New York Forward Reopening Plan, and until further notice, home visits may recommence for individuals living within OPWDD certified residential facilities, consistent with the restrictions herein.

Interim Requirements for Participating in Home Visits

Individuals may resume participation in home and family visits with all appropriate risk mitigation strategies in place. These include safe social distancing, use of masks or other face coverings when tolerated, meticulous attention to hand washing and proper cleaning and disinfection. Families must be reminded that during any off-site visit, exposure to members of different households and to public places, in general, should be done with caution and on a limited basis. Good hygiene must be practiced and safe social distancing should be maintained, whenever possible. Consistent with Executive Order 202.17, masks must be worn in public whenever social distancing cannot be maintained, to the extent they can be medically tolerated.

Individuals may participate in home or family visits only if all of the following circumstances are met:

1. The individual is not suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, and is not under any quarantine or isolation requirements;
2. The individual passes a health screen and temperature check immediately prior to leaving the certified residence;
3. The individual washes their hands immediately prior to their departure from and return to the residence;
4. The location(s) of the visit does not include: (a) any household member suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19; (b) any household member who has been exposed to COVID-19 in the prior 14 days; or (c) any household member displays any symptoms of COVID-19 in the preceding 14 days; AND
5. Staff should remind families to ensure that individuals are washing and/or sanitizing hands throughout the day, implementing social distancing whenever possible, and wearing face coverings whenever social distancing cannot be maintained in public.

Prior to home visits, staff should discuss strategies to best implement these practices and ensure that families have face coverings if needed

Interim Documentation Requirements for Home Visits

In order to be able to sufficiently trace and track any potential COVID-19 exposure, providers are required to maintain a daily log of all home visits and other visits off site from the certified residence.

Daily logs must include the following information:

1. The names of any individuals who participated in a home visit, including the address of the home visit, and the dates and times such visit started and ended;
2. Confirmation that person(s) picking up or receiving an individual for a home visit denied that anyone in the household was currently under isolation or quarantine for COVID-19;
3. Confirmation that person(s) picking up or receiving an individual for a home visit denied that anyone in the housing had any known exposure to COVID-19 in the prior 14 days;
4. Confirmation that person(s) picking up or receiving an individual for a home visit denied that anyone in the household has exhibited any of the following symptoms within the last 14 days:
 - a. Cough;
 - b. Fever of 100.0 degrees or greater;
 - c. Sore Throat;
 - d. Shortness of breath;
 - e. Headache;
 - f. Chills;
 - g. Muscle Pain; and/or
 - h. New loss of taste or smell.
5. Confirmation that the individual participating in the visit passed their health screen immediately prior to participating in the home visit;
6. Addresses of any and all places the individual spent time during the home visit, including the names of other people spending time in close contact (within 6 feet) or proximate contact; AND
7. Confirmation that the individual passed their health screen upon return from the home visit.

All logs may be required to be produced to OPWDD at any time.

Community Outings for Individuals Residing in IRAs (Attachment EE – 7.10.2020 - Interim Guidance Regarding Community Outings for Individuals Residing in OPWDD Certified Residential Facilities)

Effective July 15, 2020 for regions of the State that have entered into Phase Four in accordance the New York Forward Reopening Plan, community outings may resume for individuals living within EEDA's certified residential facilities. Furthermore, individuals may resume low risk activities, such as going to medical or professional service appointments and work, and participating in community-based outings, as described below, to the extent permitted by NY Forward, and consistent with the restrictions of this guidance and all applicable NYS directives.

Interim Restrictions for Community Outings from Certified Residential Facilities

In order to prevent further community spread or increased risk of infection, EEDA shall ensure that the following conditions are met:

1. Individuals shall not participate in community outings if any individual or staff member working in the home is suspected or confirmed positive for COVID-19;
2. Any person who had close or proximate contact to a confirmed positive individual within the last 14 days, or any person experiencing symptom(s) consistent with COVID-19, such as cough, fever, shortness of breath or trouble breathing, chills, muscle pain, new or worsening headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell must not participate in a community outing. Individuals that are close or proximate contacts or experiencing symptom(s) consistent with COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider or local health department for recommended next steps;
3. The number of individuals permitted in a community outing shall be within the discretion of the facility, based on the ability to maintain safety, but should be as small as possible. Groups shall include no more than 10 people inclusive of staff members and should be cohorted with individuals in regular contact (e.g. roommates or housemates);
4. Low risk, outdoor activities are encouraged whenever possible;
5. Community outings to stores, outdoor restaurants, salons, etc., should be extremely limited in frequency and duration and must abide by the capacity limitations of such locations;
6. Planned recreational community outings should be limited to one location per day for any individual participating;
7. Hands should be washed/sanitized immediately prior to leaving the home and immediately upon return to the home; Staff must bring hand sanitizer and ensure all individuals are washing and/or sanitizing hands throughout the community outing, whenever surfaces such as door handles, counters, public benches, and store shelves are touched;
8. Social distancing principles must be adhered to, to the greatest extent possible;
9. Face coverings shall be brought on public outings and individuals must be encouraged to wear the covering at all times. Everyone who is medically able to tolerate a mask must wear one when unable to maintain social distancing;
10. There should be no unnecessary interaction with other members of the public while on a community outing; and
11. When planning outings, staff should be aware of various capacity restrictions for businesses and should consider calling ahead, where possible, to ensure group size can be accommodated.

Individuals who participate in community outings without staff present must be provided with hand sanitizer and a face covering and should understand the risks and obligations of public exposure, as well as the expectations regarding reporting as outlined below.

Interim Transportation Requirements for Community Outings

Community outings requiring transportation to and from a location should be implemented on a limited basis and only when providers of certified residential facilities can ensure that all infection control and mitigation strategies will be applied during the transportation of individuals to and from community outings.

The following measures will be required in order to transport individuals for community outings:

1. Only individuals and staff from the same facility should be transported together. Individuals or staff from other residences should not be intermingled for purposes of transportation;
2. Capacity on buses, vans, and other vehicles should be reduced to 50% of total capacity to maximize social distancing and reduce COVID-19 transmission risks;
3. To the greatest extent possible, individuals and staff should restrict close contact by not sitting near each other or the driver. The use of directional tape and signage can assist in accomplishing this. Additionally, if there are multiple doors in a bus or van, one-way entering and exiting should be utilized. Individuals should be directed to not exit the vehicle at once, instead following driver or staff instruction on exiting one person at a time;
4. To the extent individuals can medically tolerate a face covering, individuals, staff, and the driver must wear face coverings at all times in the vehicle. Staff who cannot medically tolerate the use of a face covering should not be assigned to transport individuals;
5. After each trip is completed, the interior of the vehicle should be thoroughly sanitized and disinfected before additional individuals are transported.
6. Where appropriate and safe, windows should be rolled down to permit air flow

Interim Documentation Requirements for Community Outings

In order to be able to sufficiently trace and track any potential COVID-19 exposure, in addition to the requirements set forth above, providers are required to maintain a daily log of all community outings from the home. Logs must contain the following information:

1. The names of all individuals and staff members who participate in each community outing throughout the day;
2. Confirmation that each person passed the daily health screen and temperature check,
3. The location, including address, where the community outing occurred;
4. The times the outing started and ended;
5. The transportation that was used for each outing, where applicable; and
6. Any additional notes that are relevant or may inform increased precaution on future outings. These logs may be required to be produced to OPWDD at any time

Index of Attachments

Attachment	Name of Document	Page
Attachment A	EEDA Emergency Kit Checklist	51
Attachment B	3.25.2020 - General Management of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Facilities or Programs Operated and/or Certified by OPWDD	52
Attachment C	3.11.2020 - OPWDD Guidelines for Implementation of Quarantine and/or Isolation Measures at State-Owned and Voluntary Providers in Congregate Settings	60
Attachment D	7.29.2020- Revised Staff Guidance for the Management of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Facilities or Programs Operated and/or Certified by OPWDD	67
Attachment E	Signed letter to Staff- Corona virus – 3.9.2020	76
Attachment F	4.16.2020 - COVID-19 05-15 Closing Extension Letter to Families	78
Attachment G	Staff Health Screening Form	79
Attachment H	Post-Fever COVID 19 Physical Signs/Symptoms Checklist	80
Attachment I	3.25.2020- Health Advisory: Respiratory Illness in Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities, Individualized Residential Alternatives, Community Residences, and Private Schools in Areas of Sustained Community Transmission of COVID-19	85
Attachment J	4.10.2020 - Guidance for Resident and Family Communication in Adult Care Facilities (ACFs) and Nursing Homes (NHs)	86
Attachment K	Staff Notification Memo - 4.15.2020	87
Attachment L	EEDA letter to family members of positive COVID diagnosis	89
Attachment M	EEDA letter to staff members of positive COVID diagnosis	90
Attachment N	4.20.2020 EEDA Infection Control Policy	91
Attachment O	COVID -19 Disability Form	100
Attachment P	6.24.2020 - Interim Guidance for Quarantine Restrictions on Travelers Arriving in New York State Following Out of State Travel	102
Attachment Q	7.29.2020 - Health Advisory: Revised Protocols for Personnel in Clinical and Direct Care Settings to Return to Work Following COVID-19 Exposure or Infection	107
Attachment R	4.11.2020 - Advisory: Hospital Discharges and Admissions to Certified Residential Facilities	110
Attachment S	3.28.2020 – Health Advisory: COVID-19 Release from Home Isolation	111
Attachment T	Covid-19 Phone Notification Requirements for OPWDD Providers - 03.19.2020	112
Attachment U	Covid-19 IRMA Entry Provider Guidance - 03.17.2020	115
Attachment V	COVID-19 Individual Notification Requirements - 5.4.2020	118
Attachment W	COVID-19 Staff Notification Requirements - 5.4.2020	121
Attachment X	4.26.2020 - Updated Interim Guidance: Protocol for COVID-19 Testing Applicable to All Health Care Providers and Local Health Departments	124
Attachment Y	7.16.2020 - Interim Guidance Regarding the Reopening of Day Services Certified by the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities	127

Attachment Z	6.18.2020-interim-visitation-guidance	137
Attachment AA	EEDA Visitation Letter Bulleted 06-18-2020 FINAL	140
Attachment BB	13066_coronavirus_novisitors_poster	144
Attachment CC	7.10.2020 - Reintroduction of Individuals to Certified Residences after Extended Home Visits	145
Attachment DD	7.10.2020 - Home Visits for Individuals Residing in OPWDD Certified Residential Facilities	147
Attachment EE	7.10.2020 - Interim Guidance Regarding Community Outings for Individuals Residing in OPWDD Certified Residential Facilities	150



Creating Opportunities for Happy Lives!

Criteria:	April	October
	Check Expiration Dates & Restock	
General Supplies:		
Flashlight		
Batteries		
AM/FM Radio (battery operated or crank)		
Blanket(s)		
Manuel Can Opener		
Scissors		
Gloves		
First Aid Kit		
Disinfectant Wipes		
Hand Sanitizer		
Garbage Bags		
Paper Towels		
Plastic Wear (straws if needed)		
Paper Good (plates, bowls, etc.)		
ADL Necessities:		
Feminine Hygiene Products		
Adult Briefs (if applicable)		
Wipes		
Toilet Paper		
Toothbrushes (1 per person)		
Toothpaste (3-4 per house)		
Body Wash & 2 in 1 Shampoo (4 per house)		
Deodorant (1 per person)		
7 Day Food Supply:		
Water		
Cereal		
Powdered Milk		
Canned Goods (i.e: soup, peanut butter, jelly, tuna/chicken, etc.)		
Baby Food (for puree diets if needed)		
Snacks (i.e: crackers, beef jerky, granola bars, canned fruit, etc.)		
Documentation:		
Chain of Command		
Site Specific with Evacuation Plan		
Paperless Personal Info. Of Individuals (utilize tablets)		

**General Management of Coronavirus
(COVID-19) in Facilities or Programs
Operated and/or Certified by OPWDD**

March 25, 2020

Purpose: The Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) is providing this document to assist facilities operated and/or certified by OPWDD in the prevention and management of the Coronavirus (also referred to as COVID-19). These guidelines are based on information made available by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and are accurate as of the date written.

Guidance may change as more becomes known about COVID-19. Please visit the OPWDD website periodically for the most current information at:

<https://opwdd.ny.gov/coronavirus-guidance>

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS**A. Clinical Management In OPWDD Facilities**

OPWDD will be following the NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) recommendations and guidance for the management of processes associated with COVID-19 and for the implementation of activity restrictions for individuals exposed to, under investigation for, and/or who have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

The management of **COVID-19** in facilities operated and/or certified by OPWDD is a complex task and can be difficult. Complicating factors include:

- The wide range of residential and program configurations, ranging from apartments and small residences to large residences and day program settings, can increase the risk of exposure to the virus. The number of people in the setting can increase the risk of the virus being transmitted person-to-person or environment-to-person.
- Individuals with multiple pre-existing medical conditions may be at a higher risk for complications of COVID-19. Pulmonary, cardiac, gastrointestinal and neurological conditions are common within programs or settings, with many individuals having two or more such conditions.
- Individuals may be unable to communicate how they are feeling, so it can be difficult to diagnose.
- The level of ability of individuals to participate in respiratory etiquette and other transmission prevention activities can impact the risk of exposure to COVID-19. While some individuals can carry out simple infection control measures, many are unable to participate in any infection control measures or steps to prevent transmission to others.
- Staff frequently provide intimate personal care for the individuals they serve. This close personal contact coupled with the limited ability of individuals to participate in transmission prevention practices places individuals and staff in a “high exposure”

category. Also, just like individuals, staff may have medical conditions that place them at greater risk for complications of COVID-19.

This guidance document establishes a framework to assist staff in preventing, preparing for, responding to, and communicating during an outbreak of COVID-19, to address the above concerns.

B. COVID-19 Outbreak

Outbreaks of COVID-19 can occur in any setting, however, are likely to be more common in congregate living environments and healthcare settings where individuals who are older or have chronic health problems reside or attend day programs. Rapid identification and intervention are essential components of controlling a COVID-19 outbreak.

Should community COVID-19 activity increase, agencies are expected to immediately begin active surveillance for symptoms of COVID-19 in individuals served. Staff should receive education about monitoring for COVID-19 and promptly report signs/symptoms to agency nursing staff. Individuals with signs/symptoms of COVID-19 need to be immediately reported to the local department of health (LDH) for medical evaluation and testing.

PREVENTION / RISK REDUCTION

Preventing transmission of COVID-19 within OPWDD settings requires a multi-faceted approach. Spread of COVID-19 can occur among individuals, staff, and visitors through contact with persons in the household, program setting, work setting or community who have been exposed or who are diagnosed with COVID-19. Core prevention strategies include, but are not limited to:

- Education of staff and individuals to the extent possible on key aspects of prevention, including the importance of adherence to infection prevention practices for all individual care activities; and
- Implementing environmental and infection control measures.

A. Education of Staff and Individuals

All direct support and clinical staff are required to be educated and trained on infection control in preventing transmission from contagious diseases, including adherence to hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Providers should ensure that all training requirements are up to date.

Staff already receive training on:

- Infection control, including essential infection control techniques, basic standard precautions and proper use of personal protective equipment,
- Environmental cleaning,
- Review of activity restrictions, isolation and quarantine,
- Signs, symptoms and risk factors that increase the potential for disease transmission.

Refresher trainings will be offered to all staff through the Statewide Learning Management System (SLMS).

To address COVID-19 Infection Control concerns, additional guidance is offered through NYSDOH Website: <https://health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/> .

Additionally, direct support staff should assist the individuals they support in building awareness around good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

B. Cleaning and Environmental Measures

The following cleaning and disinfection practices and environmental measures are recommended by DOH in their Guidance Document for Cleaning and Disinfection for Non-Healthcare Settings where Individuals Under Movement Restriction for COVID-19 are Staying.

Cleaning and Disinfection

Each shift should perform targeted cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched hard, non-porous surfaces, such as counters, appliance surfaces, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, remote controls, bedside tables, and any other surfaces that are visibly soiled.

1. **Cleaning:** Always clean surfaces prior to use of disinfectants. Dirt and other materials on surfaces can reduce the effectiveness of disinfectants. Clean surfaces using water and soap or detergent to reduce soil and remove germs. For combination products that can both clean and disinfect, always follow the instructions on the specific product label to ensure effective use.
2. **Disinfection:** If EPA- and DEC*-registered products specifically labeled for SARS-CoV-2 are not available, disinfect surfaces using a disinfectant labeled to be effective against rhinovirus and/or human coronavirus. EPA- and DEC*- registered disinfectants specifically labeled as effective against SARS-CoV-2 may become commercially available at a future time and once available, those products should be used for targeted disinfection of frequently touched surfaces.
 - Label directions must be followed when using disinfectants to ensure the target viruses are effectively killed. This includes adequate contact times (i.e., the amount of time a disinfectant should remain on surfaces to be effective), which may vary between five and ten minutes after application. Disinfectants that come in a wipe form will also list effective contact times on their label.
 - Following “contact time,” any leftover cleaning fluids are to be wiped and discarded after use.
 - For disinfectants that come in concentrated forms, it is important to carefully follow instructions for making the diluted concentration needed to effectively kill the target virus. This information can be found on the product label.

Staff are reminded to ensure procedures for safe and effective use of all products are followed. Safety instructions are listed on product labels and include the personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves) that should be used.

3. Wash all bedding/linens. Wash and dry with the warmest temperatures recommended on the fabric label and follow detergent label and instructions for use.
4. Facility staff do not need to wear respiratory protection while cleaning. Staff should wear disposable gloves while handling potentially soiled items/bedding and while cleaning and disinfecting surfaces. Place all used gloves and other disposable contaminated items in a bag that can be tied closed before disposing of them with other waste.
5. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds immediately after removing gloves or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available. Soap and water should be used if hands are visibly soiled.
6. Ensure waste baskets available and visible. Make sure wastebaskets are emptied on a regular basis. Persons emptying waste baskets should wear gloves to do so and dispose of the gloves immediately.

Source: NYS Department of Health Guidance Document entitled “Interim Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection for Non-Healthcare Settings Where Individuals Under Movement Restriction for COVID-19 are Staying”

https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/docs/cleaning_guidance_non-healthcare_settings.pdf

Environmental Measures

1. Bathrooms are to be kept in good condition and cleaned on a regular schedule with cleaners and/or disinfectants.
2. Soap and paper towels are always to be available in bathrooms.
3. Shower/bathe individuals who are not presenting with symptoms first and then shower/bathe individuals who are suspected or confirmed last.
4. Clean showers and bathtubs well with disinfectant between individuals.
5. Ventilation may help reduce transmission. Open windows and use fans when practical and keep ventilation systems and filters clean.
6. Soiled clothing and linens (such as bed sheets and towels) should be washed by using household laundry soap and tumbled dry on a hot setting. Clothing and linens soiled with respiratory secretions should be washed and dried separately. Individuals and/or staff should avoid “hugging” laundry prior to washing it to prevent contaminating themselves. Individuals and/or staff should wash their hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer immediately after handling dirty laundry. Gowns can be worn to avoid contamination. Individuals and/or staff should wash their hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer immediately after handling dirty laundry.
7. Eating utensils, cups, and dishes belonging to those who are sick do not need to be cleaned separately in the dishwasher, but it is important to note that these items should not be shared without washing thoroughly first. Eating utensils should be washed either in a dishwasher or by hand with hot water and soap.

C. Minimize Potential Exposures

A range of practices can be used to minimize exposure at residences, programs and other congregate settings.

1. Effective immediately, suspend all visitation to the residential setting except when medically necessary (i.e., visitor is essential to the care of the patient or is providing support in imminent end-of-life situation). The duration and number of visits should be minimized. Visitors should wear a facemask while in the facility and should be allowed only in the individuals room. Facilities must provide other methods to meet the social and emotional needs of individuals, such as video calls. Facilities shall post signage notifying the public of the suspension of visitation and proactively notify family members of the individuals we support.
2. Screen all staff. Please see “Staff Guidance for the Management of Coronavirus in Facilities or Programs Operated and/or Certified by OPWDD.”

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS

The following COVID-19 preparedness actions are required to be implemented by all DDSOOs/Voluntary Provider Agencies operated or certified by OPWDD. This list of required

activities is intended to ensure a baseline level of preparedness across our system of care so that we can provide enhanced actions depending upon the needs of specific individuals, families, agencies or localities. These required actions may be enhanced by specific recommendations by health care providers, local health departments or the New York State Department of Health. In addition, general guidance is subject to change. We encourage all DDSOOs/Voluntary Provider Agencies to continue to monitor NYSDOH and CDC websites for additional information available to address this evolving COVID-19 pandemic.

A. Agency Preparedness

1. Training:

- i. All DDSOOs/Voluntary Provider Agencies must immediately provide refresher training to all staff on essential Infection Control techniques and prevention. In the event that DDSOOs/Voluntary Provider Agencies do not have an Infection Control Nurse, the Clinical Director or lead clinician (*if applicable*) should designate who will provide this training. This training should include, but is not limited to:
 - information on basic standard precautions,
 - proper use of personal protective equipment,
 - environmental cleaning,
 - review of activity restrictions,
 - use of quarantine and isolation,
 - education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, and risk factors that increase the potential for disease transmission and complications of COVID-19.
- ii. Equipment and Supplies:
 - Ensure each group home/program has a sufficient supply of personal care supplies (i.e., soap, shampoo and hand sanitizer), as well as, laundry detergent and cleaning/disinfecting supplies.
 - Ensure all first aid kits are fully stocked.
 - Ensure each group home/program has at least a two weeks supply of personal protective equipment, such as gloves, gowns, surgical masks and surgical facemasks with a shield.
 - Ensure each group home/program has a sufficient supply of basic over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol, Aspirin, and Ibuprofen. Include such items as hydrocortisone, Benadryl, antibiotic creams, band-aids, dressing supplies, alcohol wipes, etc.
- iii. Anticipatory Client Protections:
 - Speak to the dispensing pharmacy for the group home/program to be sure the program is able to receive delivery's and discuss how this might need to temporarily change if there is a need to restrict the activity/movement of individuals in that group home/program.
 - Ensure there is a sufficient supply for those individuals who utilize supplies such as lancets, strips utilized for glucometers, tube feeding supplies, ensure,

chux, and/or ostomy supplies as applicable. Consider reaching out to vendors to determine if there are any concerns with obtaining needed medical supplies. Ensure there is enough food in the group home/program. Stock up on non-perishables. Ensure that any stocked foods will be able to meet the needs of any individuals with dietary modifications (i.e., foods that will be able to be cut to size).

- Contact the primary care provider in order to learn how their practice will manage visits for individuals with symptoms of COVID-19. Some practices have implemented special procedures (i.e. telephone triage, direct referral to Local Health Department for testing) to manage COVID-19 concerns separate from general health concerns.

iv. Client Supervision and Activities:

- It is important that all staff are aware that regardless of the level of quarantine or isolation required, the supervision levels of the individuals we support must continue to be maintained in accordance with their Life Plan. Additionally, staff may need to implement an enhanced supervision level for an individual who may not have already had one. For example, if an individual is exposed to COVID-19 and is required to be quarantined or isolated in an enclosed room, he/she may require enhanced staffing/supervision.
- Plan for activities that can be done within the home with individuals.
- For those individuals who have family involvement, consider whether the individual may be able to go on a home visit during times of potential staffing shortages.

B. Identification of People at High Risk for Developing COVID-19 Related Complications

Facilities are expected to identify individuals who may be at risk for complications of COVID-19. Identifying such individuals at present, and in advance of onset of symptoms, is necessary so that treatment is not delayed. The CDC has identified the following as characteristics which place individuals at high risk of adverse outcomes associated with infection with COVID-19.

- Adults 65 years of age and older.
- Children with underlying respiratory or chronic medical conditions.
- Individuals who have pre-existing medical conditions including:
 - Individuals who are considered medically fragile
 - Any individual who is more vulnerable to illness/infection
 - Asthma
 - Neurological and neurodevelopmental conditions (including disorders of the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerve, and muscle such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy, stroke, intellectual/developmental disability, moderate to severe developmental delay, muscular dystrophy, or spinal cord injury) NOTE:

Having such conditions may also compromise a person's ability to manage respiratory secretions.

- Chronic lung disease (such as COPD or cystic fibrosis)
- Heart disease (such as congenital heart disease, congestive heart failure and coronary artery disease)
- Blood disorders (such as sickle cell disease)
- Endocrine disorders (such as diabetes mellitus)
- Kidney disorders
- Liver disorders
- Metabolic disorders (such as inherited metabolic disorders and mitochondrial disorders)
- Weakened immune system due to disease or medication (such as people with HIV or AIDS, cancer, or those on chronic steroids)
- People younger than 19 years of age who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy
- People who are morbidly obese (BMI of 40 or greater)

RESOURCES

More information on the NYS Department of Health (DOH) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Recommendations can be found at:

<https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Finfection-control.html#collapse_31135e5a9a0a20319

NYS Department of Health – Local Department of Health Contact List

For Personnel Employed by OPWDD: If you have any questions or concerns, or require assistance in implementing these management strategies, please feel free to contact the **Infection Control Officer** at the appropriate DDSOO.

OPWDD Guidelines for Implementation of Quarantine and/or Isolation Measures at State-Owned and Voluntary Providers in Congregate Settings

March 11, 2020

Purpose: The Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) is providing guidance to caregivers, families, and State/Voluntary provider agencies which provide services or support to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). This document is intended to provide OPWDD-specific clarification and supplemental information to what is contained in the “2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Interim Containment Guidance: Precautionary Quarantine, Mandatory Quarantine and Mandatory Isolation Applicable to all Local Health Department (LHD)” (hereafter referred to as the “Interim Containment Guidance”).

These guidelines are based on information made available by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC). These source documents, and OPWDD’s reliance upon them, were effective as of the above date. Please visit NYS DOH and/or CDC’s websites periodically for the most current information on coronavirus (COVID-19).

This document focuses on actions to be taken to address prevention and preparedness, recommendations for quarantine and isolation approaches per NYSDOH guidelines, and reporting and notification.

I. Agency Preparedness and Prevention

Emphasis will be placed on training of staff, infection control procedures, and cleaning and disinfection recommendations, in order to reduce the risk associated with transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

A. Education of Staff and Individuals:

All direct support and clinical staff are required to be educated and trained on infection control in preventing transmission from contagious diseases, including adherence to hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Providers should ensure that all training requirements are up to date.

Staff already receive training on:

1. Infection control including essential infection control techniques, basic standard precautions and proper use of personal protective equipment
2. Environmental cleaning
3. Review of activity restrictions and isolation
4. Signs, symptoms and risk factors that increase the potential for disease transmission.

Refresher trainings will be offered to all staff through the Statewide Learning Management System (SLMS).

To address COVID-19 Infection Control concerns, additional guidance is offered through NYSDOH Website: <https://health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>.

Additionally, direct support staff will assist the individuals they support in building awareness around good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

B. General infection control procedures (personal behaviors):

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases. Agencies are expected to implement the following preventive actions in all care settings.

Prevention Actions

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a surgical facemask.
 - CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a surgical facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
 - Surgical facemasks should be used by people who have had proximate or close exposure, or who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of surgical facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – Prevention and Treatment: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html>

C. Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection:

The coronavirus (COVID-19) spread by respiratory secretions (coughing or sneezing) may remain on surfaces and transmit infection for an unknown period of time. Agencies supporting individuals in quarantine and/or isolation must maintain a safe environment through Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection.

Cleaning and disinfection procedures are outlined in the box below for ease of reference.

All agencies serving individuals who are **subject to quarantine and/or isolation from COVID-19** should refer to **Section IV: Reporting and Notification Requirements for OPWDD Providers** for more direction on case reporting.

Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection

Each shift should perform targeted cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched hard, non-porous surfaces, such as counters, appliance surfaces, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, remote controls, bedside tables, and any other surfaces that are visibly soiled.

1. **Cleaning:** Always clean surfaces prior to use of disinfectants. Dirt and other materials on surfaces can reduce the effectiveness of disinfectants. Clean surfaces using water and soap or detergent to reduce soil and remove germs. For combination products that can both clean and disinfect, always follow the instructions on the specific product label to ensure effective use.
2. **Disinfection:** If EPA- and DEC*-registered products specifically labeled for SARS-CoV-2 are not available, disinfect surfaces using a disinfectant labeled to be effective against rhinovirus and/or human coronavirus. EPA- and DEC*- registered disinfectants specifically labeled as effective against SARS-CoV-2 may become commercially available at a future time and once available, those products should be used for targeted disinfection of frequently touched surfaces.
 - Label directions must be followed when using disinfectants to ensure the target viruses are effectively killed. This includes adequate contact times (i.e., the amount of time a disinfectant should remain on surfaces to be effective), which may vary between five and ten minutes after application. Disinfectants that come in a wipe form will also list effective contact times on their label.
 - Following “contact time,” any leftover cleaning fluids are to be wiped and discarded after use.
 - For disinfectants that come in concentrated forms, it is important to carefully follow instructions for making the diluted concentration needed to effectively kill the target virus. This information can be found on the product label.

Staff are reminded to ensure procedures for safe and effective use of all products are followed. Safety instructions are listed on product labels and include the personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves) that should be used.

3. Wash all bedding/linens. Wash and dry with the warmest temperatures recommended on the fabric label and follow detergent label and instructions for use.
4. Facility staff do not need to wear respiratory protection while cleaning. Staff should wear disposable gloves while handling potentially soiled items/bedding and while cleaning and disinfecting surfaces. Place all used gloves and other disposable contaminated items in a bag that can be tied closed before disposing of them with other waste.
5. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds immediately after removing gloves or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available. Soap and water should be used if hands are visibly soiled.
6. Ensure waste baskets available and visible. Make sure wastebaskets are emptied on a regular basis. Persons emptying waste baskets should wear gloves to do so and dispose of the gloves immediately.

Source: NYS Department of Health Guidance Document entitled “Interim Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection for Non-Healthcare Settings Where Individuals Under Movement Restriction for COVID-19 are Staying”

https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/docs/cleaning_guidance_non-healthcare_settings.pdf

II. Quarantine and Isolation Status¹

Prior to the implementation of mandatory quarantine or mandatory isolation, **LHDs must assess** the setting to be sure it is safe to allow persons to remain and avoid transmission from the exposed person(s) to others in the household, should the exposed person become symptomatic.

If the home is not safe to avoid transmission, the **LHD must identify** a safe place for the exposed contact and/or their household members to live during the monitoring period or until the home is safe.

OPWDD will follow the LHD's procedures outlined in the implementation of mandatory quarantine or mandatory isolation. The three (3) categories listed below describe the criteria that LHDs will use in implementing quarantine and/or isolation measures.

A. Precautionary Quarantine

Person meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. Has traveled to China, Iran, Japan, South Korea or Italy while COVID-19 was prevalent, but is not displaying symptoms; or
2. Is known to have had a proximate exposure to a positive person but has not had direct contact with a positive person and is not displaying symptoms. In addition, any person the LHD believes should be quarantined, not addressed here, the LHD should contact NYS DOH.

B. Required Mandatory Quarantine

Person meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. Has been within close contact (6 ft.) with someone who is positive, but is not displaying symptoms for COVID-19; or
2. Has traveled to China, Iran, Japan, South Korea or Italy and is displaying symptoms of COVID-19.

C. Required Mandatory Isolation

Person meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. Has tested positive for COVID-19, whether or not displaying symptoms for COVID-19.
2. LHDs must immediately issue an order for Mandatory Quarantine or Isolation once notified, which shall be served on the person impacted.

¹ Source: NYS Department of Health Guidance Document entitled "2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Interim Containment Guidance: Precautionary Quarantine, Mandatory Quarantine and Mandatory Isolation Applicable to all Local Health Departments (LHD)".

https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/docs/quarantine_guidance.pdf

III. Quarantine and/or Isolation Considerations for Individuals with I/DD

The successful management of individuals in quarantine and/or isolation relies upon close coordination between LHDs, OPWDD, the individual and their caregivers.

A. Agency Responsibility - Assessing Personal Needs

The hallmark of services and supports for individuals with I/DD is interdisciplinary service planning and treatment. Treatment teams should meet to assess and discuss the needs of each individual in their care, based on their individual Life Plans. Considerations should be made to determine how the needs of the individual can be met during the conditions of quarantine and/or isolation. This may include but is not limited to the following:

- Restriction of Activity,
- Extension of Activity Restriction, and
- Modification of Activity Restriction.

Assessing Personal Needs

In addition to ensuring that shelter requirements are met, providers must also continue to ensure that social, medical and mental health needs are met, including but not limited to the following:

- Provision of basic needs like food, shelter, medications and laundry.
- Mental health, faith-based, and social service needs and resources to help pass the time while isolated or quarantined. These services must be culturally and linguistically appropriate.
- Assistance in accessing television, movies, radio, board/card games, or books.
- Communication needs (e.g. working cellular phone, internet, etc.).
- Provision of supplies needed for personal hygiene.
- Support needs, including but not limited to family members, friends, and pets. Persons under mandatory isolation or mandatory quarantine can walk outside their house on their own property, but they must not come within six feet of neighbors or other members of the public. Persons living in a multiple dwelling building may not utilize common stairways or elevators to access the outside. Likewise, these individuals must refrain from walking in their neighborhood.

Source: NYS Department of Health Guidance Document entitled "2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Interim Containment Guidance: Precautionary Quarantine, Mandatory Quarantine and Mandatory Isolation Applicable to all Local Health Departments (LHD)".

https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/docs/quarantine_guida

B. LHD Responsibility – Create an Action Plan

The **LHD must create an action plan** for what to do if a quarantined person should become ill. LHDs must plan for immediate transfer from the home and isolation to reduce the risk of infecting other household members. The action plan must further address, at a minimum:

LHD Action Plan

- How the individual would get to an appropriate healthcare provider or facility for medical evaluation. The provider or facility must be able to implement appropriate infection control and obtain specimens.
- What hospital should receive the individual.
- Who the person or care giver should notify first: In an emergency, call 911. For a non-emergency, the LHD must be called first, who shall contact the State Department of Health.
- The LHD should notify the EMS provider and hospital in advance. When working with EMS providers and hospitals that may be involved in the ill individual's transport and care, LHDs must make sure that key individuals ("decision makers") are aware in advance **AND** that front line staff (e.g. infection control, emergency department, EMS dispatch) are alerted as soon as possible after activating the plan. Therefore, unless a medical emergency exists (in which case 911 should be called), the LHD must facilitate the rapid implementation of the action plan.

Source: NYS Department of Health Guidance Document entitled "2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Interim Containment Guidance: Precautionary Quarantine, Mandatory Quarantine and Mandatory Isolation Applicable to all Local Health Departments (LHD)".
https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/docs/quarantine_guidance.pdf

IV. Reporting and Notification Requirements for OPWDD Providers

1. Individual Confirmed for a Quarantine and/or Isolation Order from COVID-19

All providers of OPWDD funded, certified, or operated programs are required to immediately notify the OPWDD Incident Management Unit (IMU) of any quarantine and/or isolation orders served by their LHD regarding an individual served by their program. The reporting process is outlined below:

- a. Between the hours of 8 am and 4 pm (Regular Business Hours), Monday through Friday, **and not a NYS holiday** - Contact the appropriate Incident Compliance Officer assigned to your region, by calling 518-473-7032.
- b. After 4 pm Monday through Friday, 24 hours a day on weekends and on NYS holidays - Call the OPWDD Off Hours Incident Notification phone line at 1-888-479-6763.
- c. Within 24 hours, enter a report into the OPWDD Incident Report and Management Application (IRMA).

2. Requests for Assistance

Providers should contact OPWDD for assistance if there are any challenges associated with the following:

- Shelter Requirements for quarantine and/or isolation
- Training issues
- Procuring Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Cleaning & Disinfection Products or other supplies and/or materials.

If you are a Voluntary Provider and are unable to procure required PPE and/or Cleaning & Disinfection products, contact your local County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to request assistance.



Revised July 29, 2020 (new material underlined)

Revised Staff Guidance for the Management of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Facilities or Programs Operated and/or Certified by the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

The following requirements are for providers of services to individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) certified or operated by the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). This includes staff employed by the OPWDD (State-Operated programs) and those employed by community organizations (Voluntary-Operated programs). State-Operated Facilities should also consult the information provided by the OPWDD Office of Employee Relations for further implementation considerations.

The guidelines outlined in this document are designed to minimize the risk for the transmission of COVID-19 from infected to non-infected persons. A safe environment is created and maintained with the tools the agency has at hand: modifying procedures for community outings and visitation; vigorous handwashing; meticulous attention to environmental hygiene; along with proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

When individuals with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 live with individuals who do not have the virus, the agency should create physical separation for healthy individuals and staff. This practice is referred to as “cohorting” and is discussed in more detail below.

Symptoms of COVID-19

COVID-19 can cause mild to severe respiratory illness. Common symptoms include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. Additional symptoms recently added by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) include shortness of breath, chills, shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste and new loss of smell. However, some people don’t experience any symptoms. Others may experience only mild symptoms or have vague symptoms of not feeling well. Older adults, people with underlying health conditions, and people with compromised immune systems, are at a higher risk of severe illness from this virus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) believe that symptoms of COVID-19 begin between 2 and 14 days after exposure to someone with COVID-19.

A. Visitation and Community Outings

All visitation in certified residential facilities should be conducted in accordance with OPWDD’s June 18, 2020 “COVID-19: Interim Visitation Guidance for Residential Facilities.” Community outings should be conducted in accordance with OPWDD’s July 10, 2020 “Interim Guidance Regarding Community Outings for Individuals Residing in OPWDD Certified Residential Facilities.” Any facility not permitting visitors shall post signage notifying the public of the suspension of visitation and proactively notify individuals’ family members.

B. Health Checks for All Staff Working in Certified Settings Or Certified Programs/Services

Health checks should be implemented for all direct support professionals and other facility staff at the beginning of each shift, and every twelve hours thereafter, if still on duty. This includes all personnel entering the facility, regardless of whether they are providing direct care to individuals. This monitoring must include a COVID symptom screen, including any new or worsening symptoms that may be attributed to COVID-19, pursuant to the CDC’s most updated guidance, as well as a temperature check. The site should maintain a written log regarding staff passing/failing the health screen.

Additionally, all screenings shall incorporate the following questions:

(1) Have you had any known close contact with a person confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 in the past 14 days?

Please note close contact does not include individuals who work in a health care setting and are wearing appropriate, required personal protective equipment (PPE).

(2) Have you tested positive for COVID-19 through a diagnostic test in the past 14 days?

(3) Have you traveled within a state with significant community spread of COVID-19 for longer than 24 hours within the past 14 days? (For a list of states currently under New York's travel advisory requiring a 14-day quarantine upon return, please visit <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>.)

If yes, and the employee has been identified as an essential worker, please contact your supervisor or human resources officer from a remote location as you may be able to physically return to work during the 14-day quarantine under strict precautions.

All facility staff with relevant symptoms or with a temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 F should immediately be sent home and should be directed to contact their medical care provider and local health department for further direction, which may include quarantine and/or testing. Staff who are directed by their local health department to quarantine, pending test results, must notify their supervisor. All staff who have worked in close proximity with the presumed infected staff member, in addition to all individuals living in the residential setting, should contact their local health department to determine if they should also be tested and/or quarantined.

C. Health Checks for All Individuals Living in Certified Residential Settings or Receiving Services in Certified Settings/Programs

Health checks should be implemented for all individuals living in a residential facility certified or operated by OPWDD as well as individual receiving services in certified non-residential settings and programs. Check each individual at least once daily, and as needed, for fever (as measured with a thermometer), cough, or difficulty breathing, and document findings. Any individual with fever or signs and symptoms of COVID-like illness should be immediately isolated to their room and the individual's health care provider should be contacted for further direction. 911 should be called immediately if symptoms are severe. The additional guidance below regarding "when there are suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19" should be followed.

D. When There are Suspected or Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

The following steps must be taken when any individual living in a residential facility, certified or operated by OPWDD or receiving services in a certified setting or program, is identified as having a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19:

- 1) Notify the local health department and the OPWDD Incident Management Unit.
- 2) All providers of OPWDD funded, certified or operated programs are also required to immediately notify the OPWDD Incident Management Unit (IMU) of any quarantine and/or isolation orders served by the NYS DOH and/or LHD regarding an individual served by their program. The reporting process is outlined below:
 - Between the hours of 8 am and 4 pm (Regular Business Hours non-holidays), Monday through Friday, Contact the appropriate Incident Compliance Officer assigned to your region, by calling 518-473-7032.
 - After 4 pm Monday through Friday, 24 hours a day on weekends and on NY holidays – Call the OPWDD Off Hours Incident Notification phone line at 1-888-479-6763.
 - Within 24 hours, enter a report into the OPWDD Incident Report and Management Application (IRMA).
- 3) All individuals in the residential setting should be placed in quarantine and all affected individuals should remain in their rooms. Cancel group activities and communal dining. Offer other activities for individuals in their rooms

to the extent possible, such as video calls.

- 4) All staff working at the facility, who have had contact with the individual, should maintain quarantine in accordance with the [“Revised COVID-19 Protocols for Direct Care Staff to Return to Work,” most recently updated July 29, 2020.](#) Impacted staff members must remain quarantined in their home when not at work.
- 5) Do not float staff between units or between individuals, to the extent possible. Cohort individuals with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, with dedicated health care and direct care providers, to the extent possible. Minimize the number of staff entering individuals’ rooms.
- 6) Staff must actively monitor all individuals in affected homes, once per shift. This monitoring must include a COVID-related symptom screen and temperature check. The site should maintain a written log of this data. If the individual’s symptoms worsen, notify their healthcare provider that the individual has suspected or confirmed COVID-19. If the individual has a medical emergency and you need to call 911, notify the dispatch personnel that the individual has, or is being evaluated for, COVID-19. Note that during the overnight shift, individuals do not need to be woken up in order to perform the health check. Instead, staff should quietly enter the individual’s bedroom and do a bedside check, ensuring that the individual does not appear to be in any distress (i.e., breathing does not appear to be labored, individual does not appear to be sweating). If any symptoms are noted while an individual is sleeping, the on-call RN should be contacted immediately for further direction.
- 7) Other individuals living in the home should stay in another room, or be separated from the sick individual, as much as possible. Other individuals living in the home should use a separate bedroom and bathroom, if available.

Make sure that shared spaces in the home have good air flow, such as by an air conditioner or an opened window, weather permitting.

E. Additional Staffing Practices with Suspected or Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

All settings certified or operated by OPWDD should continue to implement the following staffing considerations, to the extent possible:

- 1) Maintain similar daily staff assignments into or out of sites that serve individuals with a confirmed or suspected diagnosis of COVID-19.
- 2) Limit staff assignments into or out of sites that serve individuals who had contact with a person with a confirmed or suspected diagnosis of COVID-19.
- 3) Assign staff to support asymptomatic individuals with a confirmed or suspected diagnosis of COVID-19. If the individual with a confirmed exposure begins to show signs and symptoms consistent with COVID-19, those exposed staff should not be reassigned to other sites.

Any staff member showing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should be directed to stay home, or if the symptoms emerge while at work, sent home immediately. Affected staff should contact their medical care provider and local health department for further direction.

F. Hand Washing

Handwashing is one of the most effective strategy for reducing the spread of COVID-19. Proper handwashing saves lives at work and at home.

Germs can spread from other people or surfaces when you:

- Touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands;
- Prepare or eat food and drinks with unwashed hands;
- Touch a contaminated surface or objects; or
- Blow your nose, cough, or sneeze into your hands and then touch other people’s hands or common objects.

When to Wash Hands: Direct support professionals and other facility staff should perform hand hygiene upon arrival to work, before and after all individual contact, contact with potentially infectious material, and before donning (putting on) and after doffing (removing) PPE, including gloves. Hand hygiene after doffing PPE is particularly important, to get rid of any germs that might have been transferred to bare hands during the removal process.

You can help yourself and your loved ones stay healthy by washing your hands often, especially during these key times when you are likely to get and spread germs:

- 1) Upon arrival to work;
- 2) Before handling medications;
- 3) Before assisting individuals with personal hygiene (toileting, bathing, shaving, menstrual care, wound care, etc.);
- 4) After assisting with personal hygiene tasks;
- 5) Before, during, and after preparing food;
- 6) After using the bathroom;
- 7) After coughing, sneezing, or smoking;
- 8) Before donning disposable gloves;
- 9) After doffing disposable gloves;
- 10) After touching garbage;
- 11) After touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste;
- 12) After handling pet food or pet treats; and
- 13) Before leaving work.

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, you should also clean hands:

- 1) After you have been in a public place and touched an item or surface that may be frequently touched by other people, such as door handles, tables, gas pumps, shopping carts, or electronic cashier registers/screens, etc.
- 2) Before touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.

How to Wash Hands: Follow Six Steps to Wash Your Hands the Right Way: Washing your hands is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs, even more effective than hand sanitizer.

Follow these six steps every time.

1. **Wet** your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), and apply soap.
2. **Lather** your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. **Scrub** your hands for at least 20 seconds.
4. **Rinse** your hands well under clean, running water.
5. **Dry** your hands using a clean paper towel or air dry them.
6. **Use** a paper towel to turn off faucet.

All facilities should ensure that hand hygiene supplies are readily available to all personnel in every care location.

Every staff member, whether they are involved in direct support tasks or not, is encouraged to watch the CDC training videos on handwashing, available at <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/index.html>.

G. Use of Hand Sanitizer

If soap and water are not readily available, you can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. You can tell if the sanitizer contains at least 60% alcohol by looking at the product label.

Staff should perform hand hygiene by using hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol or washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If hands are visibly soiled, use soap and water, to clean hands.

Sanitizers can quickly reduce the number of germs on hands in many situations. However,

- Sanitizers do **not** get rid of all types of germs.
- Hand sanitizers may not be as effective when hands are visibly dirty or greasy.
- Hand sanitizers might not remove harmful chemicals from hands like pesticides and heavy metals.

How to use hand sanitizer

- Apply the gel product to the palm of one hand (read the label to learn the correct amount).
- Rub your hands together.
- Rub the gel over all the surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry. This should take around 20 seconds

Access to Hand Sanitizer

Hand sanitizer should be readily available throughout the residential setting. At a minimum, there should be a hand sanitizer station near the front door of the facility, in the kitchen/dining room, and in the living room/common room, if one exists. Hand sanitizer should be present at the bedroom door of each individual, to the extent such placement does not impede the safety of individuals in the home. If staff are not wearing gloves, staff should use hand sanitizer whenever they enter or exit an individual's bedroom. To the extent that individuals in the home are at risk of ingesting the hand sanitizer, or engaging in other unsafe behaviors with it, the location of hand sanitizer throughout the residential facility may need to be modified, or staff may need to carry refillable pocket size hand sanitizers on their person.

H. Environmental Hygiene

The transmission of the COVID-19 virus can be reduced by maintaining a germ-free environment. The following measures should be taken at all facilities:

- Clean all "high-touch" surfaces, such as counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables, every shift. Bedroom and bathroom doorknobs are prime locations for germ transmission.
- Clean any surfaces that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them. Use a household cleaning spray according to the label instructions. Labels contain instructions for safe and effective use of the cleaning product, including precautions you should take when applying the product, such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.
- If the residence requires the use of a shared bathroom, bathroom surfaces must be cleaned after every use.
- Avoid sharing household items with the individual. Individuals should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, bedding, or other items. After the individual uses these items, wash them thoroughly.
- Wash laundry thoroughly. Immediately remove and wash clothes or bedding that have blood, stool, or body fluids on them.
- Staff should wear disposable gloves while handling soiled items and keep soiled items away from the body. Staff should clean their hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer immediately after removing gloves.
- Read and follow directions on labels of laundry or clothing items and detergent. In general, use a normal laundry detergent according to washing machine instructions and dry thoroughly using the warmest temperatures recommended on the clothing label.
- Place all used disposable gloves, facemasks, and other contaminated items in a lined container before disposing

of them with other household waste. Staff should clean their hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer immediately after handling these items. Soap and water should be used if hands are visibly dirty.

- Staff should discuss any additional questions with their supervisor or assigned nursing staff or contact the state or local health department or healthcare provider, as needed. Check available hours when contacting the local health department.

I. Quarantine and Isolation Status

Prior to the implementation of mandatory quarantine or mandatory isolation, Local Health Departments assess the setting and consult with the person and/or involved service providers to be sure it is safe to allow persons to remain and avoid transmission from the exposed person(s) to others in the household, should the exposed person become symptomatic.

OPWDD will follow the NYS DOH and LHD's recommendation in the implementation of precautionary quarantine, mandatory quarantine or mandatory isolation (<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/travel-large-gatherings-and-quarantines#quarantines>)

J. Individual Placement

Every effort should be made to separate individuals who are either infected or presumed to be infected with COVID-19, from those who are thought not to be infected. When hospitalization is not medically necessary, care in the home must be provided as safely as possible and should consider the following:

- If possible, move an individual with COVID-19 to a separate cohorted setting, potentially in a different location or home.
- Whenever possible, place an individual with known or suspected COVID-19 in a single-person room with the door closed. If possible, the individual should have a dedicated bathroom.
- As a measure to limit staff exposure and conserve PPE, agencies could consider designating entire programs within the agency, with dedicated staff, to care only for individuals with known or suspected COVID-19.
- Determine how staffing needs will be met as the number of individuals with known or suspected COVID-19 increases and staff become ill and are excluded from work.

Please note that it might not be possible to distinguish individuals who have COVID-19 from individuals with other respiratory viruses.

K. Personal Protective Equipment

PPE is used by healthcare personnel, including direct support staff and clinicians, to protect themselves, individuals, and others, when providing care. PPE helps protect staff from potentially infectious individuals and materials, toxic medications, and other potentially dangerous substances used in healthcare delivery. However, PPE is only effective as one component of a comprehensive program aimed at preventing the transmission of COVID-19. Facilities and programs should consult the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance to optimize the supply of PPE and equipment through conventional, contingency, and crisis strategies at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html>.

When Caring for Individuals who are NOT Infected with or Presumed to be Infected with COVID-19:

All staff are required to wear a facemask, at all times, while at work. This is intended to reduce COVID-19 transmission from potentially infected staff, who may be asymptomatic. The use of cloth masks or other face coverings that cover the mouth and nose are acceptable.

When Caring for Individuals who are Infected with or Presumed to be Infected with COVID-19:

In addition to any quarantine or isolation measures in place, individuals confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19

should wear a facemask when around other people, unless they are not able to tolerate wearing one (for example, because it causes trouble breathing). Staff should wear a facemask at all times while at work.

Staff should perform hand hygiene before and after all individual contact, contact with potentially infectious material, and before donning and doffing PPE, including gloves. Hand hygiene after removing PPE is particularly important to get rid of any germs that might have been transferred to bare hands during the removal process.

The PPE protocol recommended when caring for an individual with known or suspected COVID-19 includes:

- **Facemasks**

- Put on facemask upon entry into the group home, and wear at all times while in the work setting.
- As needed and based on available supply, implement extended use of facemasks. Wear the same facemask for multiple individuals with confirmed COVID-19 without removing between individuals. Change only when soiled, wet, or damaged. Do not touch the facemask.
- If necessary, use expired facemasks.
- Prioritize facemasks for staff rather than as source control for individuals. Have individuals use tissues or similar barriers to cover their mouth and nose. Assist individuals with this as needed.
- If necessary, implement limited re-use of facemasks. Do not touch outer surface of facemask. After removal, fold so that the outer surface of the mask is inward and store in a breathable container, such as a paper bag, between uses. This facemask should be assigned to a single staff member. Always perform hand hygiene immediately after touching the facemask.
- When splashes or sprays are anticipated, use a face shield covering the entire front and sides of the face. Use goggles if face shields are not available.
- The use of cloth masks, or other homemade masks (e.g., bandanas, scarves), for clinical and direct support staff providing direct care to individuals, is not recommended.
- For further information, consult the CDC guidance entitled “Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Facemasks”, available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/face-masks.html>.

- **N95 Respirators**

- All staff wearing N95 respirators should undergo medical clearance and fit testing.
- N95 Respirators offer a higher level of protection and should be worn, if available, for any aerosol-generating procedures or similar procedures where there is the potential for uncontrolled respiratory secretions.
- As needed and based on available supply, implement extended use of N95 respirators. Wear the same respirator for multiple individuals without removing between individuals. Change only when soiled, wet, damaged, or difficult to breathe through. Do not touch the respirator.
- If necessary, use expired N95 respirators; refer to CDC guidelines entitled “Release of Stockpiled N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators Beyond the Manufacturer-Designated Shelf Life: Considerations for the COVID-19 Response”, available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/release-stockpiled-N95.html>.
- If necessary, implement limited re-use for individuals with COVID-19, if possible with decontamination between uses; refer to FDA guidance entitled “Personal Protective Equipment Emergency Use Authorization”, available at <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/emergency-situations-medical-devices/emergency-use-authorizations>. In addition to the approved method, refer to CDC guidance entitled “Decontamination and Reuse of Filtering Facepiece Respirators using Contingency and Crisis Capacity Strategies”, available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/decontamination-reuse-respirators.html>. If not decontaminated, an important risk is that the virus on the outside of the respirator might be transferred to the wearer’s hands, leading to

transmission to the health care personnel or other individuals. It is critical to avoid touching the respirator while worn and during or after doffing and to perform rigorous hand hygiene. Assign to a single staff person and store in a breathable container, such as a paper bag, between uses. For further information consult the CDC guidance entitled “Recommended Guidance for Extended Use and Limited Reuse of N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators in Healthcare Settings”, available at <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>.

- **Eye Protection**

- When splashes or sprays are anticipated based upon the support task being provided, put on eye protection (i.e., goggles or a disposable face shield that covers the front and sides of the face) upon entry to an individual’s room or care area. Personal eyeglasses and contact lenses are NOT considered adequate eye protection.
- Remove eye protection before leaving the individual’s room or care area.
- Reusable eye protection (e.g., goggles) must be cleaned and disinfected according to manufacturer’s reprocessing instructions, prior to re-use. Disposable eye protection should be discarded after use.

- **Gloves**

- Put on clean, non-sterile gloves upon entry into an individual’s room or care area.
- Change gloves if they become torn or heavily contaminated.
- Remove and discard gloves when leaving the individual’s room or care area, and immediately perform hand hygiene.

- **Gowns**

- Put on a clean isolation gown upon entry into an individual’s room or care area. Change the gown if it becomes soiled. Remove and discard the gown in a dedicated container for waste or linen when leaving the individual’s room or care area. Disposable gowns should be discarded after use. Cloth gowns should be laundered after each use.
- If there are shortages of gowns, they should be prioritized for:
 - Aerosol-generating procedures;
 - Care activities where splashes and sprays are anticipated;
 - High-contact individual care activities that provide opportunities for transfer of germs to the hands and clothing of staff. Examples include:
 - Dressing;
 - Bathing/showering;
 - Transferring;
 - Providing hygiene;
 - Changing linens;
 - Changing briefs or assisting with toileting;
 - Device care or use; and
 - Wound care.

L. What to Do When PPE Supply is Low

Critical PPE needs should be communicated to the respective local Office of Emergency Management, with the appropriate information provided at the time of request. Requests MUST include:

- Type and quantity of PPE by size;
- Point of contact at the requesting facility or system;
- Delivery location;
- Date request is needed to be filled by; AND

- Record of pending orders.

Contingency strategies can help stretch PPE supplies when shortages are anticipated at a facility. Crisis strategies can be considered during severe PPE shortages and should be used with the contingency options to help stretch available supplies for the most critical needs. As PPE availability returns to normal, healthcare facilities should promptly resume standard practices.

Facilities should review the following guidance on Strategies for PPE shortages:

OPWDD guidance issued April 6, 2020, available at https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/04/4.6.2020-opwdd-memo-regarding-covid19-ppeshortage_0.pdf.

CDC guidance regarding specific strategies for the conservation of facemasks, eye protection, isolation gowns and N95 respirators is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html>.

Staff are encouraged to download and use the following PPE posters from the CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html#healthcare>.

Facilities should also refer to the following documents for more information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-prevent-spread.html>.

M. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

More information on the NYS Department of Health (DOH) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations can be found at:

- DOH: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>
- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>



Creating Opportunities for Happy Lives!

To: All EEDA Staff

From: Lisa Meyer Fertal, CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LMF", enclosed in a simple oval outline.

Date: March 09, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Virus

EEDA takes seriously, the health and safety of our staff and program participants. With the presence of COVID-19 Virus, EEDA is implementing a plan with direction from the Department of Health and Office for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. We are taking the following steps immediately:

- Educating our staff to know the Signs/Symptoms of the COVID-19 which includes:
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of Breath
 - Fatigue/Tired
 - Sore Throat
 - Headache
 - Diarrhea/Nausea
- Instructing all staff to view the COVID-19 training in EEDA's Relias Electronic Learning Management System.
- EEDA is communicating our strategies with all families and service providers stressing the people we support are not permitted to attend programs/receive services if they are presenting symptoms of COVID-19.
- Instructing staff to contact the EEDA Nurse on-call immediately if a program participant presents with COVID-19 symptoms.
- Instructing staff members and volunteers to STAY HOME if they present with any COVID-19 signs/symptoms.
- Instructing staff to contact their supervisor immediately if they have signs/symptoms of COVID-19.

- Requesting management to send home any staff or program participant that comes to an EEDA site with COVID-19 signs/symptoms.
- Instructing all staff to practice handwashing and assist those they are supporting to wash their hands at regular intervals. Handwashing instructions will be hung in every handwashing location.
- Ensuring soap dispensers and soap are available in all bathroom and kitchen locations throughout EEDA.
- Ensuring Purell dispensers are hung at every location.
- All worksites and vans must be wiped down every shift with EEDA approved and provided disinfectant.
- Distributing *Stop the Spread of Germs* Posters to be given to all Program Coordinators and Managers for display at every location.
- All EEDA locations will have an advisory poster sponsored by the New York State Department of Health on the front door asking that anyone sick not enter the location.
- EEDA will not be participating in any non-essential meetings and we ask for full cooperation from staff and consumers to refrain from large community events.

EEDA will provide any additional information as warranted by the Department of Health and/or OPWDD. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Be assured EEDA leadership is taking the COVID-19 very seriously and will continue to monitor the situation and respond as necessary.



Creating Opportunities for Happy Lives

April 16, 2020

Dear Family Members and Caregivers,

To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and for the safety of your loved one, EEDA is extending closure of the following programs until May 15th, 2020, though we anticipate further extensions in the future:

Day Habilitation Programs
Adult Socialization Program
Pre-Voc and SEMP Employment Programs
Children's Saturday Program
Children's Vacation Program
Overnight Respite Services

EEDA will continue to support everyone who lives in our residences. For their protection, no visitation will be allowed from non-essential EEDA staff, unfortunately, this includes family and friends.

Community Habilitation services will be limited to individuals who self-direct their services and individuals living alone in the community.

Programs will remain closed through May 15th, 2020. EEDA will then reassess the situation with the guidance from the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and update you as information becomes available. EEDA will also post updates on our website at www.eed-a.org.

Thank you for your cooperation during this difficult time. Please stay safe and healthy. We know how hard this is and we are doing the best we can to protect your loved one and all EEDA staff.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Meyer Fertal".

Lisa Meyer Fertal
Chief Executive Officer



Post-Fever COVID 19 Physical Signs/Symptoms Checklist

_____ is/has been showing the following signs/symptoms which should remain followed closely for any changes that warrant further or treatment.

***This form will be completed for 14 days following the identification of fever. If there is a NEW YES identified from the previous day, the RN will be notified immediately.*

Date of First Fever: _____ First Fever Temp: _____

Day 1: _____ Completed by: _____ Time: _____ AM/PM

CHANGES IN USUAL PHYSICAL/BEHAVIOR PATTERNS

Yes___ No___ Sneezing	Yes___ No___ Any muscle aches or weakness
Yes___ No___ Wheezing	Yes___ No___ Any Complaint of Pain
Yes___ No___ Coughing	Yes___ No___ Change in sleep pattern
Yes___ No___ Trouble breathing	Yes___ No___ Change in appetite, eating
Yes___ No___ Vomiting	Yes___ No___ Sweating
Yes___ No___ Diarrhea	Yes___ No___ Clammy
Yes___ No___ Constipation	Yes___ No___ Warm to the touch
Yes___ No___ Chronic fatigue, tires easily, sleepiness	Yes___ No___ Cold to the touch
Yes___ No___ Urine incontinence, retention	Yes___ No___ Any changes in behavior? Explain. _____
Yes___ No___ Headaches	_____

Day 2: _____ Completed by: _____ Time: _____ AM/PM

CHANGES IN USUAL PHYSICAL/BEHAVIOR PATTERNS

Yes___ No___ Sneezing	Yes___ No___ Any muscle aches or weakness
Yes___ No___ Wheezing	Yes___ No___ Any Complaint of Pain
Yes___ No___ Coughing	Yes___ No___ Change in sleep pattern
Yes___ No___ Trouble breathing	Yes___ No___ Change in appetite, eating
Yes___ No___ Vomiting	Yes___ No___ Sweating
Yes___ No___ Diarrhea	Yes___ No___ Clammy
Yes___ No___ Constipation	Yes___ No___ Warm to the touch
Yes___ No___ Chronic fatigue, tires easily, sleepiness	Yes___ No___ Cold to the touch
Yes___ No___ Urine incontinence, retention	Yes___ No___ Any changes in behavior? Explain. _____
Yes___ No___ Headaches	_____

Day 3: _____ Completed by: _____ Time: _____ AM/PM

CHANGES IN USUAL PHYSICAL/BEHAVIOR PATTERNS

Yes___ No___ Sneezing	Yes___ No___ Any muscle aches or weakness
Yes___ No___ Wheezing	Yes___ No___ Any Complaint of Pain
Yes___ No___ Coughing	Yes___ No___ Change in sleep pattern
Yes___ No___ Trouble breathing	Yes___ No___ Change in appetite, eating
Yes___ No___ Vomiting	Yes___ No___ Sweating
Yes___ No___ Diarrhea	Yes___ No___ Clammy
Yes___ No___ Constipation	Yes___ No___ Warm to the touch
Yes___ No___ Chronic fatigue, tires easily, sleepiness	Yes___ No___ Cold to the touch
Yes___ No___ Urine incontinence, retention	Yes___ No___ Any changes in behavior? Explain. _____
Yes___ No___ Headaches	_____

Day 4: _____ Completed by: _____ Time: _____ AM/PM

CHANGES IN USUAL PHYSICAL/BEHAVIOR PATTERNS

Yes___ No___ Sneezing	Yes___ No___ Any muscle aches or weakness
Yes___ No___ Wheezing	Yes___ No___ Any Complaint of Pain
Yes___ No___ Coughing	Yes___ No___ Change in sleep pattern
Yes___ No___ Trouble breathing	Yes___ No___ Change in appetite, eating
Yes___ No___ Vomiting	Yes___ No___ Sweating
Yes___ No___ Diarrhea	Yes___ No___ Clammy
Yes___ No___ Constipation	Yes___ No___ Warm to the touch
Yes___ No___ Chronic fatigue, tires easily, sleepiness	Yes___ No___ Cold to the touch
Yes___ No___ Urine incontinence, retention	Yes___ No___ Any changes in behavior? Explain. _____
Yes___ No___ Headaches	_____

Day 5: _____ Completed by: _____ Time: _____ AM/PM

CHANGES IN USUAL PHYSICAL/BEHAVIOR PATTERNS

Yes___ No___ Sneezing	Yes___ No___ Any muscle aches or weakness
Yes___ No___ Wheezing	Yes___ No___ Any Complaint of Pain
Yes___ No___ Coughing	Yes___ No___ Change in sleep pattern
Yes___ No___ Trouble breathing	Yes___ No___ Change in appetite, eating
Yes___ No___ Vomiting	Yes___ No___ Sweating
Yes___ No___ Diarrhea	Yes___ No___ Clammy
Yes___ No___ Constipation	Yes___ No___ Warm to the touch
Yes___ No___ Chronic fatigue, tires easily, sleepiness	Yes___ No___ Cold to the touch
Yes___ No___ Urine incontinence, retention	Yes___ No___ Any changes in behavior? Explain. _____
Yes___ No___ Headaches	_____

Day 6: _____ Completed by: _____ Time: _____ AM/PM

CHANGES IN USUAL PHYSICAL/BEHAVIOR PATTERNS

Yes__ No__ Sneezing	Yes__ No__ Any muscle aches or weakness
Yes__ No__ Wheezing	Yes__ No__ Any Complaint of Pain
Yes__ No__ Coughing	Yes__ No__ Change in sleep pattern
Yes__ No__ Trouble breathing	Yes__ No__ Change in appetite, eating
Yes__ No__ Vomiting	Yes__ No__ Sweating
Yes__ No__ Diarrhea	Yes__ No__ Clammy
Yes__ No__ Constipation	Yes__ No__ Warm to the touch
Yes__ No__ Chronic fatigue, tires easily, sleepiness	Yes__ No__ Cold to the touch
Yes__ No__ Urine incontinence, retention	Yes__ No__ Any changes in behavior? Explain. _____
Yes__ No__ Headaches	_____

Day 7: _____ Completed by: _____ Time: _____ AM/PM

CHANGES IN USUAL PHYSICAL/BEHAVIOR PATTERNS

Yes__ No__ Sneezing	Yes__ No__ Any muscle aches or weakness
Yes__ No__ Wheezing	Yes__ No__ Any Complaint of Pain
Yes__ No__ Coughing	Yes__ No__ Change in sleep pattern
Yes__ No__ Trouble breathing	Yes__ No__ Change in appetite, eating
Yes__ No__ Vomiting	Yes__ No__ Sweating
Yes__ No__ Diarrhea	Yes__ No__ Clammy
Yes__ No__ Constipation	Yes__ No__ Warm to the touch
Yes__ No__ Chronic fatigue, tires easily, sleepiness	Yes__ No__ Cold to the touch
Yes__ No__ Urine incontinence, retention	Yes__ No__ Any changes in behavior? Explain. _____
Yes__ No__ Headaches	_____

Day 8: _____ Completed by: _____ Time: _____ AM/PM

CHANGES IN USUAL PHYSICAL/BEHAVIOR PATTERNS

Yes__ No__ Sneezing	Yes__ No__ Any muscle aches or weakness
Yes__ No__ Wheezing	Yes__ No__ Any Complaint of Pain
Yes__ No__ Coughing	Yes__ No__ Change in sleep pattern
Yes__ No__ Trouble breathing	Yes__ No__ Change in appetite, eating
Yes__ No__ Vomiting	Yes__ No__ Sweating
Yes__ No__ Diarrhea	Yes__ No__ Clammy
Yes__ No__ Constipation	Yes__ No__ Warm to the touch
Yes__ No__ Chronic fatigue, tires easily, sleepiness	Yes__ No__ Cold to the touch
Yes__ No__ Urine incontinence, retention	Yes__ No__ Any changes in behavior? Explain. _____
Yes__ No__ Headaches	_____

Day 9: _____ Completed by: _____ Time: _____ AM/PM

CHANGES IN USUAL PHYSICAL/BEHAVIOR PATTERNS

Yes___ No___ Sneezing	Yes___ No___ Any muscle aches or weakness
Yes___ No___ Wheezing	Yes___ No___ Any Complaint of Pain
Yes___ No___ Coughing	Yes___ No___ Change in sleep pattern
Yes___ No___ Trouble breathing	Yes___ No___ Change in appetite, eating
Yes___ No___ Vomiting	Yes___ No___ Sweating
Yes___ No___ Diarrhea	Yes___ No___ Clammy
Yes___ No___ Constipation	Yes___ No___ Warm to the touch
Yes___ No___ Chronic fatigue, tires easily, sleepiness	Yes___ No___ Cold to the touch
Yes___ No___ Urine incontinence, retention	Yes___ No___ Any changes in behavior? Explain. _____
Yes___ No___ Headaches	_____

Day 10: _____ Completed by: _____ Time: _____ AM/PM

CHANGES IN USUAL PHYSICAL/BEHAVIOR PATTERNS

Yes___ No___ Sneezing	Yes___ No___ Any muscle aches or weakness
Yes___ No___ Wheezing	Yes___ No___ Any Complaint of Pain
Yes___ No___ Coughing	Yes___ No___ Change in sleep pattern
Yes___ No___ Trouble breathing	Yes___ No___ Change in appetite, eating
Yes___ No___ Vomiting	Yes___ No___ Sweating
Yes___ No___ Diarrhea	Yes___ No___ Clammy
Yes___ No___ Constipation	Yes___ No___ Warm to the touch
Yes___ No___ Chronic fatigue, tires easily, sleepiness	Yes___ No___ Cold to the touch
Yes___ No___ Urine incontinence, retention	Yes___ No___ Any changes in behavior? Explain. _____
Yes___ No___ Headaches	_____

Day 11: _____ Completed by: _____ Time: _____ AM/PM

CHANGES IN USUAL PHYSICAL/BEHAVIOR PATTERNS

Yes___ No___ Sneezing	Yes___ No___ Any muscle aches or weakness
Yes___ No___ Wheezing	Yes___ No___ Any Complaint of Pain
Yes___ No___ Coughing	Yes___ No___ Change in sleep pattern
Yes___ No___ Trouble breathing	Yes___ No___ Change in appetite, eating
Yes___ No___ Vomiting	Yes___ No___ Sweating
Yes___ No___ Diarrhea	Yes___ No___ Clammy
Yes___ No___ Constipation	Yes___ No___ Warm to the touch
Yes___ No___ Chronic fatigue, tires easily, sleepiness	Yes___ No___ Cold to the touch
Yes___ No___ Urine incontinence, retention	Yes___ No___ Any changes in behavior? Explain. _____
Yes___ No___ Headaches	_____

Day 12: _____ Completed by: _____ Time: _____ AM/PM

CHANGES IN USUAL PHYSICAL/BEHAVIOR PATTERNS

Yes___ No___ Sneezing	Yes___ No___ Any muscle aches or weakness
Yes___ No___ Wheezing	Yes___ No___ Any Complaint of Pain
Yes___ No___ Coughing	Yes___ No___ Change in sleep pattern
Yes___ No___ Trouble breathing	Yes___ No___ Change in appetite, eating
Yes___ No___ Vomiting	Yes___ No___ Sweating
Yes___ No___ Diarrhea	Yes___ No___ Clammy
Yes___ No___ Constipation	Yes___ No___ Warm to the touch
Yes___ No___ Chronic fatigue, tires easily, sleepiness	Yes___ No___ Cold to the touch
Yes___ No___ Urine incontinence, retention	Yes___ No___ Any changes in behavior? Explain. _____
Yes___ No___ Headaches	_____

Day 13: _____ Completed by: _____ Time: _____ AM/PM

CHANGES IN USUAL PHYSICAL/BEHAVIOR PATTERNS

Yes___ No___ Sneezing	Yes___ No___ Any muscle aches or weakness
Yes___ No___ Wheezing	Yes___ No___ Any Complaint of Pain
Yes___ No___ Coughing	Yes___ No___ Change in sleep pattern
Yes___ No___ Trouble breathing	Yes___ No___ Change in appetite, eating
Yes___ No___ Vomiting	Yes___ No___ Sweating
Yes___ No___ Diarrhea	Yes___ No___ Clammy
Yes___ No___ Constipation	Yes___ No___ Warm to the touch
Yes___ No___ Chronic fatigue, tires easily, sleepiness	Yes___ No___ Cold to the touch
Yes___ No___ Urine incontinence, retention	Yes___ No___ Any changes in behavior? Explain. _____
Yes___ No___ Headaches	_____

Day 14: _____ Completed by: _____ Time: _____ AM/PM

CHANGES IN USUAL PHYSICAL/BEHAVIOR PATTERNS

Yes___ No___ Sneezing	Yes___ No___ Any muscle aches or weakness
Yes___ No___ Wheezing	Yes___ No___ Any Complaint of Pain
Yes___ No___ Coughing	Yes___ No___ Change in sleep pattern
Yes___ No___ Trouble breathing	Yes___ No___ Change in appetite, eating
Yes___ No___ Vomiting	Yes___ No___ Sweating
Yes___ No___ Diarrhea	Yes___ No___ Clammy
Yes___ No___ Constipation	Yes___ No___ Warm to the touch
Yes___ No___ Chronic fatigue, tires easily, sleepiness	Yes___ No___ Cold to the touch
Yes___ No___ Urine incontinence, retention	Yes___ No___ Any changes in behavior? Explain. _____
Yes___ No___ Headaches	_____



Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

March 25, 2020

Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IIDs), Individualized Residential Alternatives (IRA), Community Residences (CR), and Private Schools

Health Advisory: Respiratory Illness in Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities, Individualized Residential Alternatives, Community Residences, and Private Schools in Areas of Sustained Community Transmission of COVID-19

Please distribute immediately to:
Administrators, Infection Preventionists, Medical Directors, and Nursing Directors

Recent testing of individuals and healthcare workers/clinicians/direct support professionals of ICF/IIDs, IRAs, CRs, Private Schools, nursing homes and adult care facilities in New York City, Long Island, Westchester and Rockland counties has revealed that symptoms of influenza-like illness are very often determined to be COVID-19 in facilities located in areas with sustained community transmission.

As a result, ANY febrile acute respiratory illness or clusters of acute respiratory illness (whether febrile or not) in ICF/IIDs, IRAs, CRs, and Private Schools in New York City, Long Island, Westchester County, or Rockland County should be **presumed** to be COVID-19 unless diagnostic testing reveals otherwise. Testing of individuals and healthcare workers/clinicians/direct support professionals with suspected COVID-19 is no longer necessary and should not delay implementation of additional infection control actions.

All ICF/IIDs, IRAs, CRs, and Private Schools in areas of the state with sustained community transmission of COVID-19 including New York City, Long Island, Westchester and Rockland with individuals who have febrile acute respiratory illness or with clusters of acute respiratory illness should follow the guidance from OPWDD, issued on March 25, 2020, for Staff Guidance for the Management of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Facilities or Programs Operated and/or Certified by OPWDD.

ICF/IIDs, IRAs, CRs, and Private Schools outside of these areas should continue to pursue testing of individuals and healthcare workers/clinicians/direct support professionals with suspected COVID-19 to inform control strategies.

Facilities should continue to seek advice from their Local Department of Health as needed.

General questions or comments about this advisory can be sent to Susan Prendergast, OPWDD Director of Nursing and Health Services, at susan.b.prendergast@opwdd.ny.gov



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

DATE: April 4, 2020

TO: All Adult Care Facilities and Nursing Homes

Guidance for Resident and Family Communication in Adult Care Facilities (ACFs) and Nursing Homes (NHs)

Please distribute immediately to:
All ACFs and NHs

The Department strongly encourages you to implement a communication protocol for both residents and their families, loved ones, and guardians unable to visit the resident during the COVID-19 pandemic. Best practices to consider when creating a communication protocol include:

For facilities with either a suspected or positive case (resident, staff, or other)

- The same day the facility learns of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, communicate to the residents and residents' families, loved ones, and guardians that an individual who has been in the facility is suspected of having, or has been diagnosed with, COVID-19. Personal identifying information cannot be disclosed in the communication.
- Send an initial letter/email regarding COVID-19 to residents and their families, loved ones, and guardians, outlining infection control policies and procedures. If possible, follow-up with a call to families and speak with the residents, in-person.
- Maintain routine communication with residents in-person, if possible, and with families, either via email or another electronic platform, regarding the facility's efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Incorporate questions and answers in communication to demonstrate transparency.
- Suggest that individuals submit their questions to the Department at icp@health.ny.gov, covidadultcareinfo@health.ny.gov, or covidnursinghomeinfo@health.ny.gov.

For facilities without an exposure issue

- Periodically meet with residents and send communication to families regarding the facility's status and measures being taken to protect the residents and staff from COVID-19.
- Maintain up-to-date information on your website. Information can be found at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>.
- Share relevant content on the facility's social media accounts.
- Suggest that individuals submit their questions to the Department at icp@health.ny.gov, covidadultcareinfo@health.ny.gov, or covidnursinghomeinfo@health.ny.gov.

FOR
YOUR

INFORMATION

To: Day Program Managers and Assistant Residential Managers
From: Human Resources
Subject: Notification of a positive COVID 19 Staff Member
Date: 4/15/2020

Everyone is following the guidelines for infection and disease control by cleaning, wearing PPE and checking their temperatures. The best way to remain safe is to treat all Staff and people we encounter as being positive for COVID 19.

In the event that a member of our Staff tests positive we want to inform others in the workplace of their possible exposure. This will be communicated by Day Program Managers and Assistant Residential Managers.

We should inform any Staff member that was in close contact with the employee that tested positive. DOH & OPWDD guidance says we also need to inform any Staff that was in contact with the employee 48 hours prior to the diagnosis.

Any Staff presenting with symptoms or fever will be sent home immediately for the protection of other Staff and Individuals. If you have questions please feel free to contact Human Resources for further instruction.

Thanks in advance for your dedication, and all of your efforts.

Jerry Kloss, MBA, PHR, SHRM-CP
Director of Human Resources

East End Disability Associates, Inc.
107 Roanoke Avenue
Riverhead, NY USA 11901
JerryK@eed-a.org
631-369-7345 Ext. 126

Guidance from OPWDD and DOH

As Essential Staff we are all expected to report for our shift in order to provide service to our Individuals. As per the DOH we are still able to work or return to work under the conditions as stated below:

If You Are **Exposed** To Someone COVID 19 Positive

- You must have no symptoms.
- Check your temperature twice a day.
- Wear a face mask for 14 days.
- You must self-quarantine when outside of work.

If **You** Test COVID 19 Positive

- You must quarantine for 7 days.
- Must be free of fever for 72 hours without use of medicine to treat fever.
- Wear a face mask for an additional 7 days.
- You must self-isolate when outside of work.

EEDA released a policy on 4/1/20 for extra protection stating that all Employees must wear a face mask until further notice.

As of 8pm on 4/15/20 it is NYS LAW to wear a face covering when outside of your personal residence.



Creating Opportunities for Happy Lives!

Dear Family Members and Caregivers,

EEDA is working diligently to preserve the health and safety of the people we support and our valued workforce. We have been flexible and responsive to a constantly changing environment and have implemented many new safeguards and practices to keep everyone healthy. Unfortunately, this letter is to inform you that there has been an individual in the residence or a staff member working that has been diagnosed with COVID-19. EEDA will continue to support everyone who lives in our residences and please be assured that all possible infection control precautions are being followed by the staff.

As East End Disability Associates, Inc. (EEDA) continues to monitor the situation related to COVID-19, which is very fluid, protocols for infection control are enhanced and updated. EEDA will follow the guidance based on our regulatory counterparts such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and update the procedures as needed.

Attached to this letter are EEDA's Infection Control Procedures which are being followed at all sites. EEDA's procedures for COVID-19 emphasis will focus on staff training, infection control procedures, and cleaning and disinfection recommendations in order to reduce the risk associated with transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

EEDA will regularly reassess the situation with the guidance from OPWDD and CDC and update stakeholders as information becomes available. EEDA will post updates on our website at www.eed-a.org. If you have additional questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Lisa Meyer-Fertal
Chief Executive Officer



Creating Opportunities for Happy Lives!

Dear EEDA Staff Member,

Thank you for playing a vital role in supporting our residents through the COVID-19 Crisis. Maintaining the health and safety of the people we support and our valued workforce is our number one goal. Unfortunately, this letter is to inform that you have worked in an environment where a coworker or person you support has tested positive for COVID-19.

As East End Disability Associates, Inc. (EEDA) continues to monitor the situation related to COVID-19, which is very fluid, existing protocols for infection control are enhanced and updated. EEDA will follow the guidance based on our regulatory counterparts such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and update the procedures as needed.

Attached to this letter are EEDA's Infection Control Procedures which you should be following at all sites. EEDA's procedures for COVID-19 emphasis will focus on staff training, infection control procedures, and cleaning and disinfection recommendations in order to reduce the risk associated with transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

EEDA will regularly reassess the situation with the guidance from OPWDD and CDC and update stakeholders as information becomes available. EEDA will post updates on our website at www.eed-a.org. If you have additional questions please do not hesitate to contact your supervisor.

Sincerely yours,

Lisa Meyer-Fertal
Chief Executive Officer



Creating Opportunities for Happy Lives!

INFECTION CONTROL PROCEDURES

Updated 4.21.2020

East End Disability Associates, Inc. (EEDA) continues to monitor the situation related to COVID-19 and has developed protocols for allowing staff to work with individuals following COVID-19 exposure. EEDA will follow the guidance based on our regulatory counterparts including the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). EEDA's procedures are updated as needed. The following describes the procedure for infection control.

EEDA's Emergency Preparedness Plan for COVID-19 emphasis will focus on staff training, infection control procedures, and cleaning and disinfection recommendations, in order to reduce the risk associated with transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Education of Staff and Individuals:

All direct support and clinical staff are required to be educated and trained on infection control in preventing transmission from contagious diseases, including adherence to hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. EEDA will ensure that all training requirements are up to date. Staff should receive training on:

1. Infection control including essential infection control techniques, basic standard precautions and proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
2. Environmental cleaning.
3. Review of activity restrictions, isolation and quarantine.
4. Signs, symptoms and risk factors that increase the potential for disease transmission.
5. Proper handwashing techniques.

Additionally, direct support staff will assist the individuals they support in building awareness around good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

General infection control procedures (personal behaviors):

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases. EEDA will implement the following preventive actions in all care settings:

Preventive Actions

1. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
3. Stay home when you are sick.
4. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

5. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
6. Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.
 - a. CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in all public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) **especially** in areas of significant community-based transmission. **EEDA agrees with CDC, however the individuals we serve, are not likely to wear facemasks so the staff will be asked to wear them at all times instead.**
 - b. Surgical facemasks should be used by people who have had proximate or close exposure, or who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of n95 facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in an IRA).
 - c. Individuals EEDA supports, who are able to tolerate the facemasks will be asked to wear them as well.
7. Hand Washing is the most effective strategy for reducing the spread of COVID-19. Proper handwashing saves lives at work and at home.
 - a. Germs can spread from other people or surfaces when you:
 - i. Touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands;
 - ii. Prepare or eat food and drinks with unwashed hands;
 - iii. Touch a contaminated surface or objects; or
 - iv. Blow your nose, cough, or sneeze into your hands and then touch other people's hands or common objects.
 - b. When to Wash Hands: Direct support professionals and other facility staff should perform hand hygiene before and after all individual contact, contact with potentially infectious material, and before donning (putting on) and after doffing (removing) PPE, including gloves. Hand hygiene after doffing PPE is particularly important, to get rid of any germs that might have been transferred to bare hands during the removal process.
 - c. You can help yourself and your loved ones stay healthy by washing your hands often, especially during these key times when you are likely to get and spread germs:
 - i. When starting work;
 - ii. Before handling medications;
 - iii. Before assisting individuals with personal hygiene (toileting, bathing, shaving, menstrual care, wound care, etc.);
 - iv. After assisting with personal hygiene tasks;
 - v. Before, during, and after preparing food;
 - vi. After using the bathroom;
 - vii. After coughing, sneezing, or smoking;
 - viii. Before donning disposable gloves;
 - ix. After doffing disposable gloves;
 - x. After touching garbage;
 - xi. After touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste;
 - xii. After handling pet food or pet treats; and
 - xiii. Before leaving work.
 - d. During the COVID-19 public health emergency, you should also clean hands:

- i. After you have been in a public place and touched an item or surface that may be frequently touched by other people, such as door handles, tables, gas pumps, shopping carts, or electronic cashier registers/screens, etc.
 - ii. Before touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
8. Use of Hand Sanitizer:

If soap and water are not readily available, you can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. You can tell if the sanitizer contains at least 60% alcohol by looking at the product label.

Staff should perform hand hygiene by using hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol or washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If hands are visibly soiled, use soap and water, to clean hands. Sanitizers can quickly reduce the number of germs on hands in many situations. However:

 - a. Sanitizers do not get rid of all types of germs.
 - b. Hand sanitizers may not be as effective when hands are visibly dirty or greasy.
 - c. Hand sanitizers might not remove harmful chemicals from hands like pesticides and heavy metals.
 - d. How to use hand sanitizer:
 - i. Apply the gel product to the palm of one hand (read the label to learn the correct amount).
 - ii. Rub your hands together.
 - iii. Rub the gel over all the surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry. This should take around 20 seconds.
9. Staff in administrative building will be responsible for cleaning and disinfecting their desk and surroundings as well as any rooms or equipment used.
10. Meetings, interviews and trainings will be conducted via telephone conference calls or web based sites such as Skype.
11. All staff will follow the Social Distancing protocols which include avoiding mass gatherings and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others when possible.
12. Individuals will be asked to spend as much time as tolerated in their rooms to avoid close contact with the staff members and others living in the residence.

Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection:

The coronavirus (COVID-19) spread by respiratory secretions (coughing or sneezing) may remain on surfaces and transmit infection for an unknown period of time. While supporting individuals, all staff must maintain a safe environment through Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection. Cleaning and disinfection procedures are outlined below for ease of reference.

Every staff member on each shift should perform targeted cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched hard, nonporous surfaces, such as counters, appliance surfaces, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, hand railings, cabinet knobs, faucets, appliance faces, toilets, phones, keyboards, elevator controls, tablets, remote controls, bedside tables, and any other surfaces that are visibly soiled.

1. Cleaning:

- a. Always clean surfaces prior to use of disinfectants. Dirt and other materials on surfaces can reduce the effectiveness of disinfectants. Clean surfaces using water and

soap or detergent to reduce soil and remove germs. For combination products that can both clean and disinfect, always follow the instructions on the specific product label to ensure effective use.

2. Disinfection:

- a. If EPA- and DEC*-registered products specifically labeled for SARS-CoV-2 are not available, disinfect surfaces using a disinfectant labeled to be effective against rhinovirus and/or human coronavirus. EPA- and DEC*- registered disinfectants specifically labeled as effective against SARS-CoV-2 may become commercially available at a future time and once available, those products should be used for targeted disinfection of frequently touched surfaces.
- b. Label directions must be followed when using disinfectants to ensure the target viruses are effectively killed. This includes adequate contact times (i.e., the amount of time a disinfectant should remain on surfaces to be effective), which may vary between five and ten minutes after application. Disinfectants that come in a wipe form will also list effective contact times on their label.
- c. Following “contact time,” any leftover cleaning fluids are to be wiped and discarded after use.
- d. For disinfectants that come in concentrated forms, it is important to carefully follow instructions for making the diluted concentration needed to effectively kill the target virus. This information can be found on the product label.
- e. Staff are reminded to ensure procedures for safe and effective use of all products are followed. Safety instructions are listed on product labels and include the personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves) that should be used.

3. Wash all bedding/linens.

- a. Wash and dry with the warmest temperatures recommended on the fabric label and follow detergent label and instructions for use.

4. Wash hands:

- a. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds immediately after removing gloves or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available. Soap and water should be used if hands are visibly soiled.

5. Waste baskets

- a. Ensure waste baskets available and visible. Make sure wastebaskets are emptied on a regular basis. Persons emptying waste baskets should wear gloves to do so and dispose of the gloves immediately.

Environmental Measures

1. Bathrooms are to be kept in good condition and cleaned on a regular schedule with cleaners and/or disinfectants.
2. Soap and paper towels are always to be available in bathrooms.
3. Shower/bathe individuals who are not presenting with symptoms first and then shower/bathe individuals who are suspected or confirmed last.
4. Clean showers and bathtubs well with disinfectant between individuals.
5. Ventilation may help reduce transmission. Open windows and use fans when practical and keep ventilation systems and filters clean.

6. Soiled clothing and linens (such as bed sheets and towels) should be washed by using household laundry soap and tumbled dry on a hot setting. Clothing and linens soiled with respiratory secretions should be washed and dried separately. Individuals and/or staff should avoid “hugging” laundry prior to washing it to prevent contaminating themselves. Individuals and/or staff should wash their hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer immediately after handling dirty laundry. Gowns can be worn to avoid contamination.
7. Eating utensils, cups, and dishes belonging to those who are sick do not need to be cleaned separately in the dishwasher, but it is important to note that these items should not be shared without washing thoroughly first. Eating utensils should be washed either in a dishwasher or by hand with hot water and soap.

EEDA will regularly reassess the situation with the guidance from the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and update stakeholders as information becomes available. EEDA will also post updates on our website at www.eed-a.org.

EEDA Responsibilities

The administration will take to following steps:

1. All staff that are going into any EEDA facility, including the administrative office will be required to have their temperature taken and wear a facemask when they are near other employees. Employees will add their temperature to a chart that will be maintained at each EEDA location.
2. Ensure all staff caring for individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 have the following influenza personal protective equipment available to them:
 - a. Masks
 - b. Eye shields
 - c. Gowns
 - d. Gloves

Staff Assignments/Cohorting:

These guidelines are designed to minimize the risk for the transmission of COVID-19 from infected to non-infected persons. In addition, EEDA must ensure that staffing levels are maintained in accordance with agency/program requirements and based on the supervision needs of the individuals served.

1. Staff assignments into or out of any site with individuals who have a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 and who are under Required Mandatory Isolation should be limited by maintaining similar daily staff assignments to the extent possible.
2. Staff assignments into or out of sites with individuals who have a confirmed exposure to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 and are under Required Mandatory Quarantine should also be limited to the greatest extent possible.
3. Assignment of staff who support individuals with a confirmed exposure but who are asymptomatic (i.e. that staff has not had any direct contact with a person with confirmed or suspected COVID-19), is permissible.

4. In the above example, if the individual with a confirmed exposure begins to show signs and symptoms consistent with COVID-19, those exposed staff should not be reassigned to other sites.
5. Any staff member showing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should be directed to stay home, or if the symptoms emerge while at work, should be sent home.

Respiratory Illness Presumed to be Covid-19:

Recent testing of individuals and healthcare workers/clinicians/DSPs in New York City and Long Island revealed that symptoms of influenza-like illness are very often determined to be COVID-19 in facilities located in areas with sustained community transmission. As a result, ANY febrile acute respiratory illness or clusters of acute respiratory illness (whether febrile or not) in the IRAs should be presumed to be COVID-19 unless diagnostic testing reveals otherwise. Testing of individuals and healthcare workers/clinicians/DSPs with suspected COVID-19 is no longer necessary and should not delay implementation of additional infection control actions.

Residential Individuals who exhibit signs of COVID-19

EEDA will designate the Crisis House as the residence where positively or suspected COVID positive individuals will reside until cleared by our nurse to return to their home. Only individuals with confirmed cases by a hospital, doctor or testing site should be at this location. Individuals can reside in cohorts.

Caring for someone who has COVID-19:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advise that EEDA staff should do the following if they are in close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

1. Staff should monitor their health; they should call their healthcare provider right away if they develop symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 (e.g., fever, cough, shortness of breath).
2. Staff need to offer support to the individual to follow their healthcare provider's instructions for medication(s) and care.
3. Monitor the individual's symptoms, alert the nurse if their status changes.
4. If the individual has a medical emergency and there is a need to call 911, notify the dispatch personnel that the individual has COVID-19.
5. Visitors who do not have an essential need to be in the home will be prohibited.
6. Make sure that shared spaces in the home have good air flow, such as by an air conditioner or an opened window, weather permitting.
 - a. EEDA will install small window fans in individual's bedrooms for ventilation.
7. Perform hand hygiene frequently. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60 to 95% alcohol, covering all surfaces of hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty.
8. Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
9. Staff and the individual, if tolerated, should wear a facemask if they are in the same room.
10. Wear PPE when touching or have contact with the individual's blood, stool, or body fluids, such as saliva, sputum, nasal mucus, vomit, urine.

11. Throw out disposable gowns and gloves after using them. Do not reuse. Wash eye protection, including goggles with alcohol after each use.
12. Assure that all affected individuals remain in their rooms. Cancel group activities and communal dining. Offer other activities for individuals in their rooms to the extent possible, such as video calls.
13. Do not float staff between individuals to the extent possible. Cohort individuals with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 with dedicated DSPs, to the extent possible. Minimize the number of staff entering individuals' rooms.
14. Other individuals living in the residence should stay in another room or be separated from the sick individual as much as possible. Other individuals living in the home should use a separate bathroom, if available.
15. Avoid sharing household items with the individual. Individuals should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, bedding, or other items. After the individual uses these items, wash them thoroughly.
16. Use a household cleaning spray according to the label instructions. Labels contain instructions for safe and effective use of the cleaning product including precautions you should take when applying the product, such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.
 - a. Clean all "high-touch" surfaces, such as counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables, every day. Also, clean any surfaces that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them.
17. Wash laundry thoroughly.
 - a. Immediately remove and wash clothes or bedding that have blood, stool, or body fluids on them.
 - b. Staff should wear disposable gloves while handling soiled items and keep soiled items away from your body. Clean your hands (with soap and water or an alcohol based hand sanitizer) immediately after removing your gloves.
 - c. Read and follow directions on labels of laundry or clothing items and detergent. In general, using a normal laundry detergent according to washing machine instructions and dry thoroughly using the warmest temperatures recommended on the clothing label.

Quarantine and Isolation Status:

Prior to the implementation of mandatory quarantine or mandatory isolation, EEDA must assess the setting to be sure it is safe to allow persons to remain and avoid transmission from the exposed person(s) to others in the household, should the exposed person become symptomatic.

1. EEDA will immediately restrict an individual to their room if they have a temperature of 100 degrees or higher. The RN will direct the staff to take the individual's temperature every 1-4 hours for the first 24 hours and monitor the results. The RN will decide after the initial 24 hours if the individual should continue quarantine, brought to the Crisis house or other protocol.
2. EEDA will follow OPWDD's procedures outlined in the implementation of mandatory quarantine or mandatory isolation.
3. EEDA will immediately transfer an ill person from an IRA to the Crisis house to reduce the risk of infecting other household members.

4. If an individual in one of the IRAs was exposed, the entire residence will be quarantined until the individuals are cleared.

PPE Protocol

PPE is used by healthcare personnel, including direct support staff and clinicians, to protect themselves, individuals, and others, when providing care. PPE helps protect staff from potentially infectious individuals and materials, toxic medications, and other potentially dangerous substances used in healthcare delivery. However, PPE is only effective as one component of a comprehensive program aimed at preventing the transmission of COVID-19. EEDA will consult the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance to optimize the supply of PPE and equipment through conventional, contingency, and crisis strategies.

The PPE protocol recommended when caring for an individual with known or suspected COVID-19 includes:

1. Facemasks:
 - a. Put on facemask upon entry into the group home, and wear at all times while in the work setting.
 - b. As needed and based on available supply, implement extended use of facemasks. Wear the same facemask for multiple individuals with confirmed COVID-19 without removing between individuals. Change only when soiled, wet, or damaged. Do not touch the facemask.
 - c. If necessary, use expired facemasks.
 - d. Prioritize facemasks for staff rather than as source control for individuals. Have individuals use tissues or similar barriers to cover their mouth and nose. Assist individuals with this as needed.
 - e. If necessary, implement limited re-use of facemasks. Do not touch outer surface of facemask. After removal, fold so that the outer surface of the mask is inward and store in a breathable container, such as a paper bag, between uses. This facemask should be assigned to a single staff member. Always perform hand hygiene immediately after touching the facemask.
 - f. When splashes or sprays are anticipated, use a face shield covering the entire front and sides of the face. Use goggles if face shields are not available.
 - g. The use of cloth masks, or other homemade masks (e.g., bandanas, scarves), for clinical and direct support staff providing direct care to individuals, is not recommended.
2. N95 Respirators:
 - a. All staff wearing N95 respirators should undergo medical clearance and fit testing.
 - b. N95 Respirators offer a higher level of protection and should be worn, if available, for any aerosol-generating procedures or similar procedures where there is the potential for uncontrolled respiratory secretions.
 - c. As needed and based on available supply, implement extended use of N95 respirators. Wear the same respirator for multiple individuals without removing between individuals. Change only when soiled, wet, damaged, or difficult to breathe through. Do not touch the respirator.
 - d. If necessary, use expired N95 respirators.

- e. If necessary, implement limited re-use for individuals with COVID-19, if possible with decontamination between uses. If not decontaminated, an important risk is that the virus on the outside of the respirator might be transferred to the wearer's hands, leading to transmission to the health care personnel or other individuals. It is critical to avoid touching the respirator while worn and during or after doffing and to perform rigorous hand hygiene. Assign to a single staff person and store in a breathable container, such as a paper bag, between uses.
3. Eye Protection:
- a. Put on eye protection (i.e., goggles or a disposable face shield that covers the front and sides of the face) upon entry to an individual's room or care area. Personal eyeglasses and contact lenses are NOT considered adequate eye protection.
 - b. Remove eye protection before leaving the individual's room or care area.
 - c. Reusable eye protection (e.g., goggles) must be cleaned and disinfected according to manufacturer's reprocessing instructions, prior to re-use. Disposable eye protection should be discarded after use.
4. Gloves:
- a. Put on clean, non-sterile gloves upon entry into an individual's room or care area.
 - b. Change gloves if they become torn or heavily contaminated.
 - c. Remove and discard gloves when leaving the individual's room or care area, and immediately perform hand hygiene.
5. Gowns:
- a. Put on a clean isolation gown upon entry into an individual's room or care area. Change the gown if it becomes soiled. Remove and discard the gown in a dedicated container for waste or linen when leaving the individual's room or care area. Disposable gowns should be discarded after use. Cloth gowns should be laundered after each use.
 - b. If there are shortages of gowns, they should be prioritized for:
 - i. Aerosol-generating procedures;
 - ii. Care activities where splashes and sprays are anticipated;
 - iii. High-contact individual care activities that provide opportunities for transfer of germs to the hands and clothing of staff. Examples include:
 - (1) Dressing;
 - (2) Bathing/showering;
 - (3) Transferring;
 - (4) Providing hygiene;
 - (5) Changing linens;
 - (6) Changing briefs or assisting with toileting;
 - (7) Device care or use; and
 - (8) Wound care.

COVID-19 DISABILITY FORM

Please answer the questions on this form to help physicians provide you with proper medical treatment, in case you need to go to the hospital for COVID-19 related symptoms. Complete as many of the questions as possible.

What is your name? _____

Is this form being completed by someone else other than you? yes no

legal guardian aide or staff member family member other

If you checked yes, what is the person's name _____ Relationship to you _____

Do you receive or have you received services from the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) or Office for Mental Health (OMH)? yes no I don't know

***Note to doctors: This means there may be special laws in place to protect me and a special process needs to be followed if my usual decision maker/guardian requests to withhold or withdraw life sustaining treatment. Please check in with your institution's social worker or risk management department to be sure the appropriate process is being followed.

How do you communicate best? (check all that apply)

- Talking Writing or typing things down
 Pictures Using sign language
 Pointing to words Using a voice app
 I cannot communicate in a way you will understand, please ask my family, staff or guardian (circle the person)
 Other (please describe) _____

Do you need anything to help you communicate?

(E.g. assistive devices) no

yes (please describe) _____

Does anyone help you communicate? no

yes, person's name _____

Do you use any assistive devices for mobility? no

yes list the device(s) _____

Do you have any triggers (e.g., being touched, trauma, doctors of a particular gender, noises, lighting, smells, textures):

What is your response to triggers?

How can you best be helped when triggered?

What is your typical response to a medical exam?

- Fully/partially cooperates Fearful
 Aggressive Resistant

I like it when health professionals (please describe)

I do not like it when health professionals (please describe)

Do you have any medical problems that you go to the doctor for?

yes no

What are they?

Please list the name of the doctor you would like contacted if you are at the hospital.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Are there any diagnoses, medical problems or behaviors that we should consider as cautions? (e.g., aggression, biting, pica, aspiration risk):

Are there any specific modifications that could help with these cautions?

Do you have seizures? no

yes, list the type and frequency _____

Do you take any medication at home every day? yes no

By prescription? no

yes, list the names and dosage _____

Over the counter? no

yes, list the names and dosage _____

Do you have any allergies? no

yes, please list _____

Do you use tobacco (e.g., cigarettes, cigars, or chewing tobacco)?

yes, please list _____ how often _____

no

Do you use alcohol? no

yes How much do you use in a week? _____

Do you use any other drugs (eg., marijuana, cocaine, or opiates)?

yes, please list _____

no

Who can we talk to about medical problems if you can't answer questions? Name _____

Phone number _____

Who do you trust to make medical decisions if you aren't able to?

Name _____

Phone number _____

Do you have a health care agent? no

yes, Name _____

Phone number _____

I live (check one box):

By myself

With my family

With roommates

In a group home

Supported living

Nursing home

Other (please describe) _____

Does anyone you know have COVID-19? yes no

I don't know

When were you told the person has COVID-19? _____

What was the last date you saw this person? _____

Capacity to consent

Capable/Own Guardian

Substitute Decision Maker

Supported Decision Making Team

Guardian/Conservator

Other, Please describe _____

How was this decided? _____

For patients who are their own guardian/have capacity:

Do you have (circle all) 1) an advance directive 2) a health care agent 3) a living will 4) a MOLST form?

If so please bring a copy of each document to the hospital

If while you are in the hospital you can't breathe on your own, do you want a machine to help breathe for you? (Mechanical ventilation)

Do you not want it at all?

Do you want a trial to see if it is helping?

Do you want it for as long as it is needed?

If while you are in the hospital your heart stops, do you want your doctor to try to restart it with pushing on your chest, medications, and electric shocks? (Resuscitation) yes no

If you can't eat or drink like you normally do, do you want liquid food and water to be given to you through a tube to your stomach or in a vein? (Artificial nutrition/hydration) yes no



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

DATE: June 24, 2020

FROM: Office of the Commissioner

Interim Guidance for Quarantine Restrictions on Travelers Arriving in New York State Following Out of State Travel

Purpose

In response to increased rates of COVID-19 transmission in certain states within the United States, and to protect New York's successful containment of COVID-19, the State has joined with New Jersey and Connecticut in jointly issuing a travel advisory for anyone returning from travel to states that have a significant degree of community-wide spread of COVID-19.

Background

Under Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's leadership, New York State has successfully slowed the transmission of COVID-19 to a rate that is unprecedented within the country. New York contracted COVID-19 from Europe, with over 2.2 million travelers coming in between the end of January and March 16, 2020, when the federal government finally implemented a full European travel ban. During that period of time, 2.2 million travelers landed in the New York metropolitan area and entered our communities. This, combined with the density and crowding of our population, caused New York to have the highest infection rate in the country.

After 116 days of strict adherence to data-driven, evidence-based protocols, including required social distancing and mandatory face coverings, and after the closure of our economy, New Yorkers have successfully reduced the spread of COVID-19 to one of the lowest rates in the nation. While New York has continued on this positive trajectory, other states have taken a more haphazard, less data-driven, less cautious approach, and are now experiencing a rapidly increasing rate of transmission of this deadly virus.

In response to this ongoing public health emergency and the risk posed by a resurgence of COVID-19, Governor Cuomo has issued Executive Order 205, requiring the New York State Commissioner of Health Dr. Howard Zucker to issue a travel advisory requiring all travelers coming from states with significant rates of transmission of COVID-19 (hereinafter "designated states") to quarantine for a 14-day period from the time of their last contact within such designated state(s). This action is taken in conjunction with neighboring states of New Jersey and Connecticut, considering the significant risk posed to the health and welfare of all residents by the further spread of COVID-19 throughout the tri-state area, and to protect the progress made in New York, this action is being taken in conjunction with neighboring states of New Jersey and Connecticut. This guidance sets forth the policies to be followed in New York State to effectuate the Department of Health travel advisory.

Criteria for Designating States with Significant Community Spread

All travelers entering New York who have recently traveled within a state with either:

- a positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents over a seven-day rolling average; or
- a testing positivity rate of higher than a 10% over a seven-day rolling average,

will be required to quarantine for a period of 14 days consistent with the Department of Health (DOH) regulations for quarantine. Data used to construct the metrics that determine the designated states from which individuals must quarantine is detailed in the tables [posted publicly](#) by all 50 states. Analysis of the metrics will be conducted weekly to determine if travelers from other states qualify.

The designated states with significant community spread will be conspicuously posted on the DOH [website](#) and will be updated weekly. Please check the site frequently as the information will change as often as daily, as rates of COVID-19 transmission increase or decrease.

Guidance for Travel

The travel advisory is effective at 12:01 am on Thursday, June 25, 2020. If you have traveled from within one of the designated states with significant community spread as defined by the metrics above, you must quarantine when you enter New York for 14 days from the last travel within such designated state, provided on the date you enter into New York State that such state met the criteria for requiring such quarantine.

The requirements of the travel advisory do not apply to any individual passing through designated states for a limited duration (i.e., less than 24 hours) through the course of travel. Examples of such brief passage include but are not limited to: stopping at rest stops for vehicles, buses, and/or trains; or lay-overs for air travel, bus travel, or train travel.

The travel advisory requires all New Yorkers, as well as those visiting from out of state, to take personal responsibility for complying with the advisory in the best interest of public health and safety. To file a report of an individual failing to adhere to the quarantine pursuant to the travel advisory, please call 1-833-789-0470 or visit this website:

<https://mylicense.custhelp.com/app/ask>. Individuals may also [contact](#) their local department of health.

Quarantine Requirements

If you are returning from travel to a designated state, and if such travel was for longer than the limited duration outlined above, you are required to quarantine for 14 days, unless you are an essential worker identified below. The [requirements to safely quarantine](#) include:

- The individual must not be in public or otherwise leave the quarters that they have identified as suitable for their quarantine.

- The individual must be situated in separate quarters with a separate bathroom facility for each individual or family group. Access to a sink with soap, water, and paper towels is necessary. Cleaning supplies (e.g. household cleaning wipes, bleach) must be provided in any shared bathroom.
- The individual must have a way to self-quarantine from household members as soon as fever or other symptoms develop, in a separate room(s) with a separate door. Given that an exposed person might become ill while sleeping, the exposed person must sleep in a separate bedroom from household members.
- Food must be delivered to the person's quarters.
- Quarters must have a supply of face masks for individuals to put on if they become symptomatic.
- Garbage must be bagged and left outside for routine pick up. Special handling is not required.
- A system for temperature and symptom monitoring must be implemented to provide assessment in-place for the quarantined persons in their separate quarters.
- Nearby medical facilities must be notified, if the individual begins to experience more than mild symptoms and may require medical assistance.
- The quarters must be secure against unauthorized access.

Travel Advisory Exemptions for First Responders and Essential Workers

Exceptions to the travel advisory are permitted for essential workers and are limited based on the duration of time in designated states, as well as the intended duration of time in New York. The Commissioner of Health may additionally grant an exemption to the travel advisory based upon extraordinary circumstances, which do not warrant quarantine, but may be subject to the terms and conditions applied to essential workers or terms and conditions otherwise imposed by the Commissioner in the interest of public health.

Short Term – for essential workers traveling to New York State for a period of less than 12 hours.

- This includes instances such as an essential worker passing through New York, delivering goods, awaiting flight layovers, and other short duration activities.
- Essential workers should stay in their vehicle and/or limit personal exposure by avoiding public spaces as much as possible.
- Essential workers should monitor temperature and signs of symptoms, wear a face covering when in public, maintain social distance, and clean and disinfect workspaces.
- Essential workers are required, to the extent possible, to avoid extended periods in public, contact with strangers, and large congregate settings.

Medium Term – for essential workers traveling to New York State for a period of less than 36 hours, requiring them to stay overnight.

- This includes instances such as an essential worker delivering multiple goods in New York, awaiting longer flight layover, and other medium duration activities.
- Essential workers should monitor temperature and signs of symptoms, wear a face covering when in public, maintain social distance, and clean and disinfect workspaces.
- Essential workers are required, to the extent possible, to avoid extended periods in public, contact with strangers, and large congregate settings.

Long Term – for essential workers traveling to New York State for a period of greater than 36 hours, requiring them to stay several days.

- This includes instances such as an essential worker working on longer projects, fulfilling extended employment obligations, and other longer duration activities.
- Essential workers should seek diagnostic testing for COVID-19 as soon as possible upon arrival (within 24 hours) to ensure they are not positive.
- Essential workers should monitor temperature and signs of symptoms, wear a face covering when in public, maintain social distancing, clean and disinfect workspaces for a minimum of 14 days.
- Essential workers, to the extent possible, are required to avoid extended periods in public, contact with strangers, and large congregate settings for a period of, at least, 7 days.

Essential workers and their employers are expected to comply with previously issued DOH [guidance](#) regarding return to work after a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 or after the employee had close or proximate contact with a person with COVID-19. Additionally, this guidance may be superseded by more specific industry guidance for a particular industry (e.g., for a nursing home worker, a negative test PCR test will be required before return to work). Consult with your employer regarding whether there is industry-specific guidance that may apply to you.

Please consult the DOH [website](#) and resources for additional details and information regarding isolation procedures for when a person under quarantine is diagnosed with COVID-19 or develops symptoms.

For reference, an “essential worker” is (1) any individual employed by an entity included on the Empire State Development (ESD) [Essential Business list](#); or (2) any individual who meets the COVID-19 testing criteria, pursuant to their status as either an individual who is employed as a health care worker, first responder, or in any position within a nursing home, long-term care facility, or other congregate care setting, or an individual who is employed as an essential employee who directly interacts with the public while working, pursuant to DOH [Protocol for COVID-19 Testing, issued May 31, 2020](#), or (3) [any other worker deemed such by the Commissioner of Health](#).

Resources

Travel restrictions will help to contain the rates of COVID-19 transmission in New York State and will work to protect others from serious illness. All New Yorkers must take these travel directives seriously. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. For further information, please visit:

- [DOH COVID-19 Website](#)
- [NYS Local Health Department Directory](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) COVID-19 Website](#)

[World Health Organization \(WHO\) COVID-19 Website](#)



REVISED COVID-19 Protocols for Direct Care Staff to Return to Work

June 5, 2020

Revised July 29, 2020 (new material underlined)

Health Advisory: Revised Protocols for Personnel in Clinical and Direct Care Settings to Return to Work Following COVID-19 Exposure or Infection

This advisory supersedes guidance from the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) pertaining to the COVID-19 outbreak, entitled “Updated Protocols for Personnel in Clinical and Direct Care Settings to Return to Work Following COVID-19 Exposure or Infection,” released on March 28, 2020. This guidance applies to all facilities and services certified by OPWDD.

- A. Providers may allow clinical and direct support professionals or other facility staff who have **been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19**, or who have traveled internationally in the past 14 days to return to work if all of the following conditions are met:
1. Furloughing such personnel would result in staff shortages that would adversely impact operation of the provider.
 2. Personnel who have been in contact with confirmed or suspected cases are **asymptomatic**.
 3. Personnel who are asymptomatic contacts of confirmed or suspected cases should self-monitor twice a day (i.e. temperature, symptoms), and undergo temperature monitoring and symptom checks at the beginning of each shift, and at least every 12 hours during a shift.
 4. Personnel who are asymptomatic contacts of confirmed or suspected cases should wear a facemask while working, until 14 days after the last high-risk exposure.
 5. To the extent possible, direct care professionals and clinical staff working under these conditions should preferentially be assigned to individuals at lower risk for severe complications, as opposed to higher-risk patients (e.g. severely immunocompromised, elderly).
 6. Personnel allowed to return to work under these conditions should maintain self-quarantine when not at work.
 7. At any time, if the personnel who are asymptomatic contacts to a positive case and working under these conditions develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they should immediately stop work and isolate at home. All staff with symptoms

consistent with COVID-19 should be immediately referred for diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2.

B. Providers may allow personnel who have traveled in the past 14 days to a state with a significant degree of community spread of COVID-19 (see guidance at https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/06/interimguidance_traveladvisory.pdf), whether healthcare providers or other facility staff (hereinafter “employees”), to work if all of the following conditions are met:

1. Employees are asymptomatic.
2. Employees received diagnostic testing for COVID-19 within 24 hours of arrival in New York.
3. Employees self-monitor twice a day (i.e. temperature, symptoms), and receive temperature monitoring and symptom checks at the beginning of each shift, and at least every 12 hours during a shift.
4. Employees must wear a facemask while working.
5. To the extent possible, employees working under these conditions should preferentially be assigned to patients at lower risk for severe complications, as opposed to higher-risk patients (e.g. severely immunocompromised, elderly).
6. Employees allowed to return to work under these conditions should maintain self-quarantine when not at work.
7. At any time, if an employee working under these conditions develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they should immediately stop work and isolate at home. All staff with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should be immediately referred for diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2.

C. Providers may allow personnel with **confirmed or suspected COVID-19**, whether direct care professionals, clinical staff or other facility staff, to continue to work if all the following conditions are met:

1. To be eligible to return to work, personnel with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 must have maintained isolation for at least 10 days after illness onset, must have been fever-free for at least 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications, and must have other symptoms improving.
2. Personnel who are severely immunocompromised as a result of medical conditions or medications should consult with a healthcare provider before returning to work. Providers should consider seeking consultation from an infectious disease expert for these cases.
3. If a staff member is asymptomatic but tested and found to be positive, they must maintain isolation for at least 10 days after the date of the positive test and, if they develop symptoms during that time, they must maintain isolation for at least 10 days after illness onset and must have been at least 72 hours fever-free without fever reducing medications and with other symptoms improving.
4. Personnel who are recovering from COVID-19 and return to work after 10 days should

wear a facemask while working until symptoms have completely resolved, so long as mild symptoms are improving, if they persist.

5. In the **rare** instance when a staff member with unique or irreplaceable skills critical to the care of individuals is affected by COVID-19, the healthcare entity may contact OPWDD to discuss alternative measures to allow such staff member to safely return to work before 10 days have elapsed.

Personnel who are furloughed due to isolation, or because they do not meet the above conditions for returning to work, qualify for paid sick leave benefits, and their employers can provide them with a letter confirming this, which can be used to demonstrate eligibility for the benefit.

General questions or comments about this advisory can be sent to Susan Predergast, OPWDD Statewide Director of Nursing Services, at susan.b.predergast@opwdd.ny.gov.



Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

DATE: April 10, 2020
 TO: Operators of Certified Residential Facilities
 FROM: New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

Advisory: Hospital Discharges and Admissions to Certified Residential Facilities

Please distribute immediately to:
 Administrators, Hospital Discharge Planners and Treatment Team Leaders

COVID-19 has been detected in multiple communities throughout New York State. This guidance clarifies expectations for Providers of all Residential Facilities, certified or operated by OPWDD, receiving residents returning from hospitalization, and for such facilities accepting new admissions. Operators of OPWDD Certified Residential Facilities should carefully review this guidance with all staff directly involved in individual admission, transfer, and discharges.

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, all Certified Residential Facilities must have a process in place to expedite the return of **asymptomatic** residents from the hospital. Individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities are deemed appropriate for return to their OPWDD certified residence upon a determination by the hospital physician, or designee, that the individual is medically stable for return, in consultation with the residential provider.

Hospital discharge planners must confirm to the Certified Residential Facility, by telephone, that the resident is medically stable for discharge and whether the individual is asymptomatic. Comprehensive written discharge instructions will be provided by the hospital prior to the transport of a resident.

No individual shall be denied re-admission or admission to a Certified Residential Facility based solely on a confirmed or suspected diagnosis of COVID-19. Any denial of admission or re-admission must be based on the residential provider's inability to provide the level of care required by the prospective individual, pursuant to the hospital's discharge instructions, and based on the residential provider's current certification. Additionally, providers of Certified Residential Facilities are prohibited from requiring a hospitalized individual, who is determined medically stable, to be tested for COVID-19 prior to admission or readmission. Residents who are symptomatic should only be discharged to a certified residence if there are clinical staff available who are capable of attending to the medical needs of a symptomatic resident, pursuant to hospital discharge instructions.

Information regarding COVID-19 is available on the OPWDD website at <https://opwdd.ny.gov/coronavirus-guidance> and the New York State Department of Health website at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/information-healthcare-providers>. Standard infection control precautions must be maintained, and environmental cleaning made a priority.

Critical personal protective equipment (PPE) needs should be communicated to your local Office of Emergency Management. Requests **MUST** include:

- Type and quantity of PPE, by size;
- Point of contact at the requesting facility or system;
- Delivery location;
- Date request is needed to be filled by; AND
- Record of pending orders.

Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation in responding to COVID-19. General questions or comments about this advisory should be sent to Susan.B.Prendergast@opwdd.ny.gov.



March 28, 2020

Health Advisory: COVID-19 Release From Home Isolation

SUMMARY

- Widespread, ongoing community transmission of COVID-19 is occurring in the New York City metropolitan region of New York State.
- The criteria in New York State for release from mandatory home isolation is now being revised to use the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's \(CDC\) non-test-based strategy](#).
- [Release of immunocompromised persons with COVID-19](#) from isolation (e.g., medical treatment with immunosuppressive drugs, bone marrow or solid organ transplant recipients, inherited immunodeficiency, poorly controlled HIV) should be discussed in advance with NYSDOH.

RELEASE OF SYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS ON ISOLATION

- Symptomatic individuals who were confirmed as having COVID-19 may discontinue home isolation once they meet the following conditions:
 - At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery*, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; **AND**
 - Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **AND**
 - At least 7 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*.
- This approach will prevent most, but may not prevent all, instances of secondary spread. The risk of transmission after recovery is likely substantially less than that during illness.
 - To further reduce the risk, individuals returning from isolation should continue to practice proper hygiene protocols (e.g., hand washing, covering coughs) and avoid prolonged, close contact with vulnerable persons (e.g. compromised immune system, underlying illness, 70 years of age or older).

RELEASE OF ASYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS ON ISOLATION

- Asymptomatic individuals who were confirmed as having COVID-19 may discontinue home isolation under the following conditions:
 - At least 7 days have passed *since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test*; **AND**
 - The individual has had no subsequent illness.

Covid-19 Phone Notification Requirements for OPWDD Providers
Effective 03/17/2020

Applicable to all providers of OPWDD funded, certified, or operated programs
*These requirements supersede guidance emailed March 12, March 14, and
 March 17, 2020*

Covid-19 Events that must be Reported

All providers must immediately notify the Justice Center or IMU by phone of:

- **any Covid-19 related quarantine and/or isolation orders** served by their Local Health Department (LHD), identified below (page2);

Regarding:

- Any **individual** served by their Agency (program), or
- Any **staff member** employed by their Agency (program).

The reports must be documented in IRMA as Part 625 events as described on companion document "Covid-19 Required Reporting in IRMA". The events will not require investigation by the agency. However, IRMA entry must include information required in this guidance. You will be contacted by OIIA to collect information for contact tracing if there is positive response and/or a reasonable suspicion that a person will test positive.

Initial Notifications

Program/Services Under Justice Center Jurisdiction	Programs/Services <u>NOT</u> Under Justice Center Jurisdiction
<p>All agency programs/services under the jurisdiction of the Justice Center must report Covid-19 status as described below to the NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs @</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>1-855-373-2122</u></p> <p>The Justice Center is assisting OPWDD in receipt of reports.</p> <p>Web form submittal is not acceptable for Covid-19 reports.</p> <p>Note: A Justice Center XML will be created in IRMA</p>	<p>All agency programs/services not under the jurisdiction of the Justice Center must report Covid-19 status as described below, as follows:</p> <p>Monday through Friday, 8:00am – 4:00 pm Call <u>518-473-7032</u> and state that the call is for Covid-19 reporting.</p> <p>Do Not call your RCO or ICO directly for Covid-19 telephone notification.</p> <p>The provider must create/enter the report into IRMA.</p>

Status Changes/Updates to Previous Reports

**All Phone Notifications Must be reported to OPWDD Incident Management Unit
Monday through Friday, 8:00am through 4:00pm:**

Call **518-473-7032** and state that the call is for Covid-19 reporting.

Do Not call your RCO or ICO for Covid-19 telephone notification.

After 4 pm Monday through Friday, all hours on weekends and NYS holidays:

Call: 1-888-479-6763.

All providers must **also immediately notify** the OPWDD Incident Management Unit by phone of **any changes in individuals or staff involved, condition, status, or location** of involved parties, related to reported Covid-19 cases.

Within 24 hours of phone notification of updates, the agency must enter into the OPWDD Incident Report and Management Application (IRMA).

Covid-19 Quarantine and Isolation Statuses Requiring Notification:

A. Precautionary Quarantine

Person meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. Has traveled to China, Iran, Japan, South Korea or Italy while COVID-19 was prevalent, but is not displaying symptoms; or
2. Is known to have had a proximate exposure to a positive person but has not had direct contact with a positive person and is not displaying symptoms. In addition, any person the LHD believes should be quarantined, not addressed here, the LHD should contact NYS DOH.

B. Required Mandatory Quarantine

Person meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. Has been within close contact (6 ft.) with someone who is positive, but is not displaying symptoms for COVID-19; or
2. Has traveled to China, Iran, Japan, South Korea or Italy and is displaying symptoms of COVID-19.

C. Required Mandatory Isolation – Positive Test for Covid-19

Person meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. Has tested positive for COVID-19, whether or not displaying symptoms for COVID-19.
2. LHDs must immediately issue an order for Mandatory Quarantine or Isolation once notified, which shall be served on the person impacted.

IMMEDIATE PHONE NOTIFICATION - INFORMATION NEEDED

Providers must report the following information at the time of phone notification to the best of their ability:

- Caller Name and contact phone number
- Agency
- Involved Program/Service Type
- Involved Program/Service Address
- **For each Individual on quarantine/isolation status**, the following information:
 - Name, TABS ID, Date of Birth

- Willowbrook status
 - Residential Address
 - Contact Phone Number for each individual, and primary contact person name
 - Name and phone number of the local health department party spoken to by provider
 - Determined quarantine/isolation per the health department (one of the following):
 - Precautionary Quarantine
 - Required Mandatory Quarantine
 - Required Mandatory Isolation
 - Start date of quarantine/isolation determination
 - Description of protections and quarantine/isolation implementation
- **For each staff member on quarantine/isolation status**, the following information, to the best of their ability:
 - Name
 - Home Address
 - Date of Birth
 - Contact phone number
 - Name and phone number of the local health department party spoken to, if known.
 - Determined quarantine/isolation per the health department (one of the following):
 - Precautionary Quarantine
 - Required Mandatory Quarantine
 - Required Mandatory Isolation

Within 24 hours of phone notification a report must be entered into the OPWDD Incident Report and Management Application (IRMA) as described in “Covid-19 Required Reporting in IRMA”.

IMMEDIATE NOTIFICATION OF STATUS CHANGES

Providers must call to report status changes/updates by **2:00 pm** each day when known, for previously reported individuals and staff including but not limited to the following information:

- Changes in individual’s location due to implementation or termination of quarantine or isolation
- Changes in or termination of health department quarantine or isolation status
- Covid-19 testing and/or receipt of testing results
- Changes in health status, e.g. hospitalization, hospital discharge, recovery, etc.
- Any other significant changes

Within 24 hours of status change notification a report update must be entered into IRMA as described below.

Covid-19 Required Reporting in IRMA

Effective 03/17/2020

Applicable to all providers of OPWDD funded, certified, or operated programs

IRMA entry must occur within 24 hours of phone notification of Covid-19 quarantine/isolation status.

Phone notification guidance is provided on companion document "Covid-19 Phone Notification Requirements for OPWDD Providers".

Providers must enter a report into IRMA under the Part 625 Event/Situation classification of **"ES -COVID-19 "Coronavirus."**

Programs/Services <i>Under</i> Justice Center Jurisdiction	Programs/Services <i>NOT Under</i> Justice Center Jurisdiction
<p>Follow these steps to enter into IRMA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Log into the Incident Report and Management Application (IRMA) • Look in the Justice Center Tab in IRMA • Locate the new Justice Center created IRMA record. Open that record and review the JC XML to ensure that this is the correct narrative reported for COVID-19 to the Justice Center. • Continue to enter COVID-19 Event information by following ES Covid-19 IRMA Entry Requirements below. 	<p>Follow these steps to enter into IRMA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Log into the Incident Report and Management Application (IRMA) • Go to the menu page and select, "ADD INCIDENT" • Continue to enter COVID-19 Event information by following ES Covid-19 IRMA Entry Requirements below.

ES Covid-19 IRMA Entry Requirements:

- **On the incident details tab enter all known information (all required fields):**
 - Did this incident occur under the auspices of OPWDD or provider agency?
 - **Select "No" (Part 625 regulation)**
 - Initial Findings/Preliminary Report (Maximum 8000 characters.)
 - Type the names of **individuals** and **staff** that were exposed and indicate if they are an individual or staff
 - For each person you enter, indicate which of the following quarantine/isolation categories the person is under based on the determination of the Local Department of Health:
 - Precautionary Quarantine (Isolation of individuals with proximate exposure)
 - Required Mandatory Quarantine (Isolation of individuals with close exposure)
 - Required Mandatory Isolation (Individuals with Confirmed COVID-19 Diagnosis)
 - Other statuses or related information
 - Hit "Submit" to create the record. You will receive a message at the top of the page confirming the record has been created and the Master Incident Number (MIN) assigned to it.

- **Document the MIN immediately in case you are timed out of IRMA. You will be able use the MIN to search for the record that was created.**
- **Go to Incident Details and then to the Involved Persons tab:**
 - Add **all individuals** and **staff** with exposure
 - For Type select “person present”
 - Select the appropriate subtype (i.e., agency staff, individual etc.)
 - Enter name - first and last name are required
- **In the Individual Tab select:**
 - Category – ES (Event/Situation)
 - Classification – **COVID-19 “Coronavirus”**
 - **Enter Staff:**
 - When you select this classification, there will be an “Add Staff” link that pops up next to the COVID-19 “Coronavirus” Classification
 - If a staff member is involved in this event, in that there are quarantine or isolation requirements in place for the staff involved, click on this link
 - It will add a type of individual to the Event/Situation named STAFF,STAFF.” This will help identify if any staff was involved.
 - “STAFF,STAFF” can only be added to the Event/Situation only once under the Individual Tab. Once you click on the link to Add Staff, that option will go away. If multiple staff are identified, those staff members should be recorded by name in the Involved Persons Tab.
 - **Enter Individuals:**
 - Enter individuals by their TABS ID
- **Initial Status:**

Under the Investigation Tab, click on Reporting Update and type in information known about initial status;

Initial Status must include information necessary at the time of phone notification:

Initial Status for each Individual must include the following information:

 - Exposure information and date
 - Date of quarantine/isolation determination and implementation
 - Name and phone number of the health department party spoken to
 - Description of implemented protections and quarantine/isolation measures.
 - Individual’s current location within the home or different site;
 - If person has been relocated to a different site to implement be quarantined or isolated, or to provide required medical care; provide the type of facility and address
 - **For each staff member on quarantine/isolation status,** the following information:
 - Exposure information and date
 - Date of quarantine/isolation determination and implementation
 - Name and phone number of the health department party spoken to, if known
 - How quarantine/isolation is accomplished, if known.
- **Reporting Update:**

Under the Investigation Tab, click on Reporting Update and Select “Other” and then in the text box list the status change.

A new reporting update **must be made with each change in status**, including but not limited to:

- Changes in individual's location due to implementation or termination of quarantine or isolation
- Changes in or termination of health department quarantine or isolation status
- Covid-19 testing and/or receipt of testing results
- Changes in health status, e.g. hospitalization, hospital discharge, recovery, etc.
- Any other significant changes

Please direct your questions and issues related to reporting in IRMA to your respective Incident Compliance Officer at 518-473-7032. If you do not reach them, please email the questions/issues to incident.management@opwdd.ny.gov
Thank you.

COVID-19 INDIVIDUAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**Revised 5.4.2020**

EEDA is required to notify OPWDD and the Justice Center of any COVID-19 related quarantine and/or isolation orders served by the local DOH. This involves a person supported or any staff employed by the agency.

Involved Program:	
Program Address:	
Program Phone Number:	
Contact Person:	
Start Date:	
The entire program is currently under:	Level for the Program
Program not under quarantine/isolation	
Precautionary Quarantine	
Required Mandatory Quarantine	
Required Mandatory Isolation	
Other Exposure	

INDIVIDUAL'S INFORMATION

Name:	
Date of Birth:	
TABS ID:	
Considered Vulnerable Individual? Yes/No	
Willowbrook Yes/No:	
Residential Address:	
Residential Phone #:	
Own bedroom or roommate? Roommate name	
Where is person now? (home, hosp., etc)	
Has the Individual been Hospitalized?	
If hospitalized, has discharge planning started?	
Primary Contact Name:	
Primary Contact Relationship:	
Primary Contact #:	
The symptoms the person is exhibiting:	
The date symptoms began:	
Has the person been in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID19? Yes/no/unknown. If yes, any details if known.	
If the person traveled outside their home/residence within the previous 14 days - yes/no? If yes, where?	
Has Individual been evaluated by Medical Practitioner?	
Date Tested?	
Date Results Received?	
Has Individual been determined by LHD/HCP to be presumed positive?	
Determined Quarantine/Isolation level:	

Phone #:		
DOB:	Facility:	Date:

Name:	Address:	Name:
Phone #:		
DOB:	Facility:	Date:

Name:	Address:	Name:
Phone #:		
DOB:	Facility:	Date:

Name:	Address:	Name:
Phone #:		
DOB:	Facility:	Date:

Name:	Address:	Name:
Phone #:		
DOB:	Facility:	Date:

This Section to be completed by Compliance/QA

Which County DOH contacted:	
When Contacted? (Date/Time)	
Who called DOH? (DOH)	
Who did they speak w/ at DOH?	
Phone number of person at DOH:	
Email address of person at DOH:	
EEDA or DOH completing Contact Tracing?	
JC Notified- Date/Time:	
Who made the notification?	
OPWDD Notified- Date/Time:	
Who made the notification?	
IRMA Master Incident #:	

COVID-19 STAFF NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS		
	REVISED 5/4/2020	
EEDA is required to notify OPWDD and the Justice Center of any COVID-19 related quarantine and/or isolation orders served by the local DOH. This involves a person supported or any staff employed by the agency.		
Involved Program:		
Program Address:		
Program Phone Number:		
Contact Person:		
Start Date:		
The entire program is currently under:	Level for the program	
Program not under quarantine/isolation		
Precautionary Quarantine		
Required Mandatory Quarantine		
Required Mandatory Isolation		
Other Exposure		
STAFF INFORMATION		
Staff Name:		
Date of Birth:		
Home Address:		
Staff's Phone #:		
Email address:		
Last date staff worked in program:		
Address of primary work site:		
County of primary work site:		
Did this exposure occur at work?		
Location of the exposure (if known):		
Where is person now? (home, hosp., etc)		
The symptoms the person is exhibiting:		
The date symptoms began:		
Was the person symptomatic at work?		
Has the person been in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID19? Yes/no/unknown. If yes, any details if known.		
If the person traveled outside their home/residence within the previous 14 days - yes/no? If yes, where?		
Has person been evaluated by Health Department or Medical Provider?		
Date Tested?		
Location of the testing?		
Date Results Received?		
Has Individual been determined by LHD/HCP to be presumed positive?		
Start Date of Quarantine/Isolation:		

Name:	Address:	Name:
Phone #:		
DOB:	Facility:	Date:
Name:	Address:	Name:
Phone #:		
DOB:	Facility:	Date:
Name:	Address:	Name:
Phone #:		
DOB:	Facility:	Date:
This Section to be completed by Compliance/QA		
Which County DOH contacted:		
When Contacted? (Date/Time)		
Who called DOH?		
Who did they speak w/ at DOH?		
Phone number of person at DOH:		
Email address of person at DOH:		
EEDA or DOH completing Contact Tracing?		
JC Notified- Date/Time:		
Who made the notification?		
OPWDD Notified- Date/Time:		
Who made the notification?		
IRMA Master Incident #:		



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

DATE: April 26, 2020
TO: Health Care Providers, Health Care Facilities, and Local Health Departments
FROM: New York State Department of Health

Updated Interim Guidance: Protocol for COVID-19 Testing Applicable to All Health Care Providers and Local Health Departments

Background:

Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) continues to monitor the situation and work to expand COVID-19 diagnostic and serologic testing for New Yorkers.

Purpose:

Appropriate and efficient standards for testing are an essential component of a multi-layered strategy to prevent sustained spread of COVID-19 in New York State and to ensure resources are being efficiently and equitably distributed. New York State continues to increase testing capacity for COVID-19 on a daily basis. However, until such time as we are at full capacity, this guidance is necessary to ensure that New York State prioritizes resources to meet the most urgent public health need.

Diagnostic and/or serologic testing for COVID-19 shall be authorized by a health care provider when:

- An individual is symptomatic or has a history of symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. fever, cough, and/or trouble breathing), particularly if the individual is 70 years of age or older, the individual has a compromised immune system, or the individual has an underlying health condition); or
- An individual has had close (i.e. within six feet) or proximate contact with a person known to be positive with COVID-19; or
- An individual is subject to a precautionary or mandatory quarantine; or
- An individual is employed as a health care worker, first responder, or other essential worker who directly interacts with the public while working; or
- An individual presents with a case where the facts and circumstances – as determined by the treating clinician in consultation with state or local department of health officials – warrant testing.

Based on individual clinical factors, health care providers should use clinical judgement to determine the appropriate COVID-19 test(s) (i.e. diagnostic or serologic) that should be obtained.

Testing Prioritization:

On April 17, 2020, [Executive Order 202.19](#) was issued requiring the establishment of a single, statewide coordinated testing prioritization process that shall require all laboratories in the state, both public and private, that conduct COVID-19 diagnostic testing, to complete such COVID-19 diagnostic testing only in accordance with such process.

To support the statewide coordinated testing prioritization, health care providers should take the following prioritization into consideration when ordering a COVID-19 test:

1. Symptomatic individuals, particularly if the individual is part of a high-risk population, including persons who are hospitalized; persons residing in nursing homes, long-term care facilities, or other congregate care settings; persons who have a compromised immune system; persons who have an underlying health condition; and persons who are 70 years of age or older.
2. Individuals who have had close (i.e. within six feet) or proximate contact with a person known to be positive with COVID-19.
3. Individuals who are employed as health care workers, first responders, or in any position within a nursing home, long-term care facility, or other congregate care setting, including but not limited to:
 - Correction/Parole/Probation Officers
 - Direct Care Providers
 - Firefighters
 - Health Care Practitioners, Professionals, Aides, and Support Staff (e.g. Physicians, Nurses, Public Health Personnel)
 - Medical Specialists
 - Nutritionists and Dietitians
 - Occupational/Physical/Recreational/Speech Therapists
 - Paramedics/Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs)
 - Police Officers
 - Psychologists/Psychiatrists
 - Residential Care Program Managers
4. Individuals who are employed as essential employees who directly interact with the public while working, including but not limited to:
 - Animal Care Workers (e.g. Veterinarians)
 - Automotive Service and Repair Workers
 - Bank Tellers and Workers
 - Building Code Enforcement Officers
 - Child Care Workers
 - Client-Facing Case Managers and Coordinators
 - Counselors (e.g. Mental Health, Addiction, Youth, Vocational, Crisis, etc.)
 - Delivery Workers
 - Dentists and Dental Hygienists
 - Essential Construction Workers at Occupied Residences or Buildings
 - Faith-Based Leaders (e.g. Chaplains, Clergy Members)
 - Field Investigators/Regulators for Health and Safety
 - Food Service Workers
 - Funeral Home Workers
 - Hotel/Motel Workers
 - Human Services Providers
 - Laundry and Dry Cleaning Workers

- Mail and Shipping Workers
- Maintenance and Janitorial/Cleaning Workers
- Optometrists, Opticians, and Supporting Staff
- Retail Workers at Essential Businesses (e.g. Grocery Stores, Pharmacies, Convenience Stores, Gas Stations, Hardware Stores)
- Security Guards and Personnel
- Shelter Workers and Homelessness Support Staff
- Social Workers
- Teachers/Professors/Educators
- Transit Workers (e.g. Airports, Railways, Buses, and For-Hire Vehicles)
- Trash and Recycling Workers
- Utility Workers

Diagnostic Testing Access:

Individuals who fit these prioritization categories and do not currently have access to testing can call the New York State COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-364-3065 or visit the NYSDOH website <https://covid19screening.health.ny.gov/> to be screened for eligibility, and if eligible, have an appointment set up at one of the State’s Testing Sites.

Precautions:

Any release of information must adhere strictly to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and any other applicable federal and state laws governing personal health information. Providers who have questions can contact the NYSDOH Bureau of Communicable Disease Control at 518-473-4439 during business hours or 1-866-881-2809 during evenings, weekends, and holidays.

Additional Resources:

- [NYS DOH COVID-19 Website](#)
- [NYS Local Health Department Directory](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) COVID-19 Website](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\) COVID-19 Website](#)



Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

Interim Guidance Regarding Reopening of Day Services

July 10, 2020

Revised July 16, 2020 (revisions underlined)

Interim Guidance Regarding the Reopening of Day Services Certified by the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

This Interim Guidance provides guidelines for OPWDD's certified day programs and services, both site and community based including Day Habilitation, Prevocational Services, Sheltered Workshops, Day Treatment, and Respite, to resume operations safely and consistently with the Governor's NY Forward initiative. OPWDD is committed to resuming full access to services for individuals, as well as to maintaining health and safety standards, social distancing directives, and precautions to help protect against the spread of COVID-19.

Effective July 15, 2020 for regions of the State that have entered into Phase Four in accordance the New York Forward Reopening Plan, these guidelines replace the March 17, 2020 guidance entitled *Immediate Temporary Suspension of Day Program Services* and set forth minimum requirements based on best-known public health practices at time of the State's reopening. The documentation and sources referenced in these guidelines are subject to change. The day programs responsible for implementation and monitoring of these guidelines are required to adhere to all applicable local, state and federal requirements, remain well-informed with any relevant updates and to incorporate as needed into operating practices and site-specific Safety Plan. Each day program has authority to implement additional precautions and/or increased restrictions necessary to meet program specific and individual specific needs.

Standards for Reopening Day Program Operations

OPWDD certified day programs may only reopen if they meet minimum State and Federal safety requirements as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), United States Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), New York State Department of Health (DOH) and OPWDD while also meeting the minimum standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The requirements contained within this guidance apply to all OPWDD certified day programs and services which resume operation during the continued COVID-19 public health emergency, until amended or rescinded by the State. The OPWDD day program shall be responsible for meeting these minimum standards. Please note that where guidance in this document differs from other guidance documents issued by the State or Federal governments, the more recent guidance shall apply.

Please note that any outdoor space that belongs to and/or is exclusively used by a certified day program site is not considered a public place for the purposes of this guidance. Individuals receiving services are not required to wear a face covering when utilizing the outdoor space that belongs to and/or is exclusively used by the day program, as long as social distancing from other day program participants and staff and essential visitors can be maintained.

Signage must be posted throughout the certified site addressing critical COVID-19 transmission prevention and containment. Programs can use the [DOH issued signage](#) or develop customized signage specific to their day program needs and location. Signage must include guidance regarding:

- Social distancing requirements
- Use of mask or cloth face-covering requirements.
- Proper storage, usage and disposal of PPE.
- Symptom monitoring and COVID-19 exposure reporting requirements.
- Proper hand washing and appropriate use of hand sanitizer.

Required Day Program Reopening Plans

All day programs must develop a safety plan for reopening that addresses the requirements contained herein and provide said plan to the OPWDD Division of Quality Improvement via the Quality Mailbox at quality@opwdd.ny.gov . Plans should be submitted prior to the reopening of the day program and must include the attached attestation, agreeing to implement all required safety precautions and guidelines.

All day programs and the responsible parties must maintain and have available completed safety plans on site. The State has made available a business reopening safety plan template to guide business owners and operators in developing plans to protect against the spread of COVID-19, such safety plan templates can be found at forward.ny.gov.

A. Entrance to Site Based/Participation in Community Based Programs

All staff and individuals, as well as any essential visitors, must be screened prior to entry into the day program site and monitored for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 thereafter.

Each day program must designate a supervisory level staff or health care professional to conduct daily screenings. Screeners should be provided and use PPE, including at a minimum, a face mask and gloves and may include a gown, and/or a face shield. The screener must document health screenings of all individuals and staff. Staff screenings will document if the screening was passed or the staff was sent home, no health information will be recorded. All staff screenings will be secured in a locked area. Screeners must require individuals and staff to self-report, to the extent they are able, any changes in symptom status throughout the day and identify a contact person who staff and/or individuals should inform if they later are experiencing COVID-19-related symptoms.

The health screening assessment should ask about (1) COVID-19 symptoms in the past 14 days, (2) positive COVID-19 test in the past 14 days, (3) close contact with a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case in the past 14 days and/or (4) travel from within one of the designated states with significant community spread. Assessment responses must be reviewed every day and such review must be documented.

Any individual or staff exhibiting signs or symptoms of COVID-19 upon arrival will not be allowed to enter the program building. They will be required to return home until they are fever free for 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications (e.g. Advil, Tylenol)

If symptoms begin while at the day program, the individual or staff must be sent home as soon as possible. The program must keep sick individuals and staff separate from well individuals and staff.

Any individual or staff sent home should be instructed to contact their healthcare provider for assessment and testing. The day program must immediately notify the local health department and OPWDD about the suspected case. The day program should provide the individual or staff with written information on healthcare and testing resources, refer to DOH Testing guidance (<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-testing>)

- Individuals sent home from program shall consult with their healthcare practitioner prior to returning to the program;
- Staff sent home shall comply with appropriate return to work guidance and shall consult with their supervisor prior to returning to work.

Individuals may not return to or attend the day program while a member of their household or certified residence are being quarantined or isolated. If an individual or staff member is identified with COVID-19, the day program must seek guidance from State or local health officials to determine when the individual/staff can return to the program and what additional steps are needed. A directory of local health departments can be found at: https://www.health.ny.gov/contact/contact_information/

All staff and individuals must perform hand hygiene immediately upon entering the program and throughout the day.

Day program services must designate a site safety monitor whose responsibilities include continuous compliance with all aspects of the site safety plan.

Day programs must maintain a log of every person, including staff and essential visitors, who may have close contact with other individuals at the facility; excluding deliveries that are performed with appropriate PPE or through contactless means. Log should contain contact information, such that all contacts may be identified, traced and notified in the event someone is diagnosed with COVID-19. Providers of day program services must cooperate with local health department contact tracing efforts.

Staff should take the following actions related to COVID-19 symptoms and contact:

- If a staff has COVID-19 symptoms AND EITHER tests positive for COVID-19 OR did not receive a test, the staff may only return to work after completing a 14-day self-quarantine. If a staff is critical to the operation or safety of a facility, the day program provider may consult their local health department and the most up-to-date CDC and DOH standards on the minimum number of days to quarantine before a staff is safely able to return to work with additional precautions to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
- If a staff does NOT have COVID-19 symptoms BUT tests positive for COVID-19, the staff may only return to work after completing a 14-day self-quarantine. If a staff is critical to the operation or safety of a facility, the day program provider may consult their local health department and the most up-to-date CDC and DOH standards on the minimum number of

days to quarantine before a staff is safely able to return to work with additional precautions to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

- If a staff has had close contact with a person with COVID-19 for a prolonged period of time AND is symptomatic, the staff should notify the day program and follow the above protocol for a positive case.
- If a staff has had close contact with a person with COVID-19 for a prolonged period of time AND is NOT symptomatic, and the inability to temporarily furlough that employee would cause a hardship to the employer/program, the staff should notify the day program and adhere to the following practices prior to and during their work shift, which should be documented by the day program:
 - i. Regular monitoring: As long as the staff does not have a temperature or symptoms, they should self-monitor consistent with the day program's health policies.
 - ii. Wear a mask: The staff should wear a surgical face mask at all times while in the day program.
 - iii. Social distance: staff should continue social distancing practices, including maintaining, at least, six feet distance from others.
 - iv. Disinfect and clean facility spaces: Continue to clean and disinfect all areas such as offices, bathrooms, classrooms, common areas, and shared electronic equipment routinely.

Entrance into sites will be restricted to essential staff responsible for the direct provision of service not amenable to delivery via telehealth alternatives or those persons required to ensure continued health and safety operations (e.g. PPE supply delivery or work control etc.). Post signage alerting non-essential visitors are not allowed.

In the event an individual, staff or anyone they reside with are placed on quarantine or isolation, the responsible party (i.e. self, guardian, residence manager etc.) must notify the day program immediately and must suspend attending day program until they are medically cleared to return to work/program.

B. Social Distancing Requirements

All day program providers must ensure that, for any programming occurring indoors, capacity is limited to the number of participants and required staff which ensures the following mitigation strategies are adhered to:

At least six feet of physical distance is maintained among individuals and staff, unless safety of the core activity requires a shorter distance or an individual's treatment plan requires that closer contact be maintained with a staff member.

All staff must wear an appropriate face mask or covering at all times at work, consistent with all current Executive Orders and OPWDD guidelines, unless medically contraindicated.

- Acceptable face coverings for COVID-19 include but are not limited to cloth-based face coverings and disposable masks that cover both the mouth and nose.
- Cloth, disposable, or other homemade face coverings are not acceptable face coverings for workplace activities that typically require a higher degree of protection for personal protective

equipment due to the nature of the work. For those activities, N95 respirators or other personal protective equipment (PPE) used under existing industry standards should continue to be used, as is defined in accordance with OSHA guidelines.

Individuals receiving services must wear face coverings, if they can medically tolerate one whenever social distancing cannot be achieved.

Programs must ensure that groupings of staff/individuals receiving services are as static as possible by having the same group of individuals work with the same staff whenever and wherever possible. Group size must be limited to no more than fifteen (15) individuals receiving services. The restriction on group size does not include employees/staff.

Programs must ensure that different stable groups of up to 15 individuals have no or minimal contact with one another nor utilize common spaces at the same time, to the greatest extent possible.

Programs should maintain a staffing plan that does not require employees to “float” between different rooms or groups of individuals, unless such rotation is critical to safely staff individuals due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g. staff absence).

Modify the use and/or restrict the number of program rooms and seating areas to allow for social distancing of at least six feet apart in all directions (i.e. 36 square feet). When distancing is not feasible between workspaces, the program must provide and require the use of face coverings or enact physical barriers, such as plastic shielding walls where they would not affect air flow, heating, cooling, or ventilation.

- Physical barriers should be put in place in when possible. Options include but are not limited to strip curtains, plexiglass or similar materials, or other impermeable dividers or partitions. Use in accordance with OSHA guidelines.
- Shared workspaces or equipment must be cleaned and disinfected between use.
- Prohibit the use of tightly confined spaces (e.g. supply closets, equipment storage areas, kitchens, vehicles, or restrooms) by more than one person at a time, unless both individuals and staff sharing such space are wearing acceptable face coverings. However, even with face coverings in use, occupancy must never exceed 50% of the maximum capacity of the space or vehicle, unless it is designed for use by a single occupant.

Programs should increase ventilation with outdoor air to the greatest extent possible (e.g. open program room and vehicle windows and prop open doors and/or open as frequently as possible), unless such air circulation poses a safety or health risk (e.g., allowing pollens in or exacerbating asthma symptoms) to individuals using the facility.

Programs should take additional measures to prevent congregation in lobbies, hallways, and in elevator waiting areas and limit density in elevators, such as enabling the use of stairs.

Implement additional measures to prevent congregation in elevator waiting areas and limit density in elevators, such as enabling the use of stairs, when possible.

Reduce bi-directional foot traffic using tape or signs with arrows in narrow aisles, hallways, or spaces, and post signage and distance markers denoting spaces of six feet in all commonly used areas and any areas in which lines are commonly formed or people may congregate (e.g. entrance/exit into the facility, meal areas, etc.).

Social distancing may not always be possible when caring for individuals with higher medical, behavioral or adaptive support needs. Their specific treatment plans may necessitate physical contact to ensure health and safety during activities of daily living (e.g. toileting, eating etc.), behavior intervention techniques (e.g. physical restraint) or medical treatments (e.g. administration of daily medication or first aid etc.). All appropriate personal protective equipment and hygiene must be utilized. Providers are encouraged to work with staff who are unable to medically tolerate wearing a mask to temporarily reassign them to work duties which are capable of being completed while maintaining social distance from vulnerable populations.

C. Gatherings in Enclosed Spaces

Prohibit gatherings of more than 15 people (excluding staff) in a shared space, at any given time. Rooms should be reconfigured or repurposed to limit density and expand usable space.

Program rooms should include the same grouping of individuals with the same staff each day to the extent possible and avoid crossing programs with other rooms.

Space out seating (6 feet apart) and use floor markers to designate six-foot distances. Remove additional seating above designated room capacity.

Day programs must provide adequate space for required staff to adhere to social distancing while completing independent tasks (i.e. paperwork) and when taking breaks (e.g. eating). Break times should be staggered to maintain social distancing.

Shared food and beverages are prohibited. Food brought from home should require limited preparation at the day program site (i.e. heating in microwave) and be packed appropriately. All reusable food utensils and storage containers should be washed in the dishwasher on the hottest wash and dry setting.

Buffet-style dining is prohibited. Discontinue use of large cafeterias for meals, unless social distancing can be maintained, and stagger mealtimes to allow for social distancing and disinfection in-between use.

D. Day Program Schedules and Activities

Initially, day program capacity should be prioritized for individuals who are best served onsite due their specific clinical needs. Providers should allow high risk individuals, who prefer to remain at home, to participate in less intensive in-home supports of a shorter duration and encourage continued use of telehealth to supplement service delivery.

For those individuals resuming site-based day services, programs must implement measures to foster social distancing and disinfection in-between use via the following considerations:

Adjusting day program hours to allow blocks of service provision (e.g. 9 AM to 1 PM and 2 PM to 6 PM).

Limiting staff on site to those essential to direct service provision.

Prioritizing tasks and activities that most easily adhere to social distancing.

For sport and athletic activities, programs must keep stable groups of individuals together and separated from other groups and should focus on activities with little or no physical contact (e.g. walking or hiking) and which do not rely on shared equipment.

For food services, programs should:

- Serve individual portions;
- Avoid use of communal dining areas and substitute eating outdoors or in a classroom, whenever possible;
- Keep stable groups of individuals separated from one another;
- Consider staggering mealtimes to reduce occupancy within an indoor space or congregation within an outdoor area; and
- Separate tables with seating at least six feet apart from other tables, as feasible.

E. Personal Protective Equipment

Day programs must have an adequate supply of required PPE on site. All required staff and essential visitors are required to wear a face covering or mask and will be provided one for use onsite at no cost.

All day programs and staff should comply with OSHA standards applicable to each specific work environment.

Staff may choose to provide their own face covering, however are not required to. Acceptable face coverings may include, surgical masks, N95 respirators, face shields and/or cloth masks (e.g. homemade sewn, quick cut, bandana). Any personally supplied face coverings must maintain standards for professional/workplace attire. Cloth, disposable or homemade masks are not appropriate for workplace activities that require a higher degree of protection for personal protective equipment due to the nature of the work.

- Face coverings must be cleaned or replaced after use and may not be shared. Please consult CDC guidance for optimizing use of face masks at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/face-masks.html> .
- All staff must be trained on proper use of PPE including when to use and donning, doffing, disposing and/or reusing and sanitizing when appropriate. Documentation of such trainings will be retained in the employee's personnel file.

F. Hygiene and Cleaning

Strict adherence to hygiene and sanitation requirements is required to reduce transmission as advised by DOH "Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection of Public and Private Facilities for COVID-19," and the "STOP THE SPREAD" poster, as applicable.

All site based day programs, and non site-based programs to the extent it is applicable, are required to implement the following minimum standards:

- Maintain an adequate stock of cleaning and EPA approved disinfecting agents.
- Conduct frequent cleaning and rigorous disinfection of high-risk areas (i.e. bathrooms, nursing stations) and high touch surfaces (i.e. shared equipment or supplies). Please refer to DOH's Interim Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection of Public and Private Facilities for COVID-19 for detailed instructions on how to clean facilities.
 - Adhere to proper dwell times for all cleaners, sanitizers and disinfectants per manufacturer recommendations as indicated on the product label and ensure adequate ventilation to prevent inhaling toxic fumes. Use only EPA registered products for disinfecting non-porous surfaces.
 - Maintain at each site cleaning logs indicating the date, time, and scope of cleaning.
 - Cleaning products, sanitizers and disinfectants must be kept secure and out of reach of individuals who may misuse (i.e. consume, dump out etc.). Products should be locked in a separate supply closet or cabinet, with only staff having key access. After sanitizing or disinfecting any gloves, paper towels or other disposable items used will be immediately discarded. These should be tied in a trash bag and removed from the environment to prevent individuals from accessing potentially contaminated or hazardous materials.
- Limit use of shared objects/equipment and clean then sanitize after each use. Items that cannot be cleaned and sanitized should not be used (i.e. soft toys, cloth placemats, etc.) Individuals should not be permitted to bring such personal items from home.
- Put in place reasonable measures to limit the sharing of objects, such as electronic equipment, arts and craft materials, touchscreens, as well as the touching of shared surfaces; or, require employees to wear gloves (trade-appropriate or medical) when in contact with shared objects or frequently touched surfaces; or, require workers and individuals to practice hand hygiene before and after contact.
- If cleaning or disinfection products or the act of cleaning and disinfecting causes safety hazards, staff must use PPE as needed followed by hand hygiene. Use cleaning/disinfecting wipes for

electronics (do not use sprays). Limit the number of people using the equipment when proper cleaning/disinfecting of such items are not possible.

- Provide and maintain hand hygiene stations throughout each location where possible to include:
 - Handwashing: soap, running warm water, and disposable paper towels.
 - Hand sanitizing: alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol for areas where handwashing facilities may not be available or practical. Hand sanitizer should be available and utilized frequently throughout community based services.
 - All staff and individuals should wash their hands frequently with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds upon arriving to any site-based programming, before handling food, before and after eating and drinking, smoking/vaping, using the bathroom, after touching shared objects or surfaces, after touching their eyes, nose or mouth, or after cleaning, sanitizing or disinfecting surfaces or when hands are visibly dirty. Use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol are also acceptable. Use of hand sanitizer by individuals should be supervised as needed by staff.

CDC guidelines on “Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility” should be followed if someone is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 infection:

- Close off areas used by the person who is sick. The provider does not have to necessarily close operations, if they can close off the affected areas.
- Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
- Wait 24 hours before you clean or disinfect. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible.
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick such as offices, classrooms, bathrooms, common areas, and shared equipment.
- Once the area has been appropriately disinfected, it can be opened for use. Employees and individuals without close contact with the person who is sick can return to the area immediately after disinfection.

Provider should follow NYS DOH and OPWDD guidance related to reporting and contact tracing in the case of a positive or presumed positive COVID-19 individual or staff.

G. Transportation

All certified day programs must ensure that the following measures are in place in order to transport individuals to/from day programming:

- Only individuals and staff traveling to and from the same day program should be transported together; individuals or staff from other day programs should not be intermingled for purposes of transportation at this time; individuals transported together are encouraged to be cohorted for purposes for day programming also, in order to further reduce intermingling;

- Capacity on buses, vans, and other vehicles transporting individuals from multiple residences should be reduced to 50% of total capacity to maximize social distancing and reduce COVID-19 transmission risks;
- Individuals and staff who reside/work together in the same home may be transported together to day program(s) in the same vehicle without a vehicle capacity reduction;
- Consider staggering arrival and departure times to reduce density during these times;
- To the extent possible, individuals and staff from different households should restrict close contact by not sitting near each other or the driver. The use of directional tape and signage can assist in accomplishing this. Additionally, if there are multiple doors in a bus or van, one-way entering and exiting should be utilized. Individuals should be directed to not exit the vehicle at once, instead following driver or staff instruction on exiting one person at a time;
- To the extent they can medically tolerate one, individuals, staff, and the driver must wear face-coverings at all times in the vehicle. Social distancing must be maintained for individuals who cannot tolerate wearing a mask and, when possible, such individuals should be transported alone or with members of the same household. Staff who cannot medically tolerate the use of a face covering should not be assigned to transport individuals at this time;
- After each trip is completed, the interior of the vehicle should be thoroughly cleaned before additional individuals are transported; and
- Where appropriate and safe, windows should be rolled down to permit air flow.

H. Tracing and Tracking

Providers of day program services must notify the local health department and OPWDD immediately upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 test result by an individual or staff at their site.

In the case of a staff or visitor testing positive, the provider of day program services must cooperate with the local health department to trace all contacts in the workplace and notify the health department of all staff, individuals and visitors who entered the facility dating back to 48 hours before the staff began experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or tested positive, whichever is earlier, but maintain confidentiality as required by federal and state law and regulations.

Local health departments will implement monitoring and movement restrictions of infected or exposed persons including home isolation or quarantine.

Staff who are alerted that they have come into close or proximate contact with a person with COVID-19, and have been alerted via tracing, tracking or other mechanism, are required to self-report to their employer at the time of alert and shall follow all required protocols as if they had been exposed at work.

Additional safety information, guidelines, and resources are available at:

New York State Department of Health Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Website
<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus (COVID-19) Website
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration COVID-19 Website
<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>

**COVID-19: Interim Visitation
Guidance for Residential Facilities**

June 18, 2020

**COVID-19: Interim Visitation Guidance for
Certified Residential Facilities****Background:**

On March 14, 2020 OPWDD issued a Health Advisory: COVID-19 Cases in Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities which suspended visitors within Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID). The advisory also described requirements for the allowance of patient support persons. On March 18, 2020, OPWDD issued a Health Advisory: COVID-19 Guidance for Operators of Individualized Residential Alternatives (IRAs), Community Residences (CRs) and Private Schools Regarding Visitation, which suspended visitors within IRAs, CRs and Private Schools. ICF/IIDs, IRAs, CRs, and Private Schools are collectively referred to herein as “Certified Residential Facilities.”

Accompanied by strong infection prevention and control requirements, these policies aim to safeguard and maintain the health and wellbeing of residents and staff, while containing and preventing the spread of COVID-19 during the State’s initial growth phase of the pandemic. After the successful efforts of New Yorkers to flatten the curve and reduce virus transmission, OPWDD recognizes the need for sustainable visitation policies for certified residential facilities for the next phase of the public health emergency.

Visitation Program for Certified Residential Facilities

The separation of residents from their loved ones can cause significant stress and anxiety, and new strategies are needed going forward to extend the opportunity to visit residents of certified residential facilities in a manner that continues to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and ensure the health and wellbeing of residents, staff, and visitors. In recognition of this need, a visitation program for certified residential facilities will be implemented across New York State. This guidance aims to continue to ensure a safe environment of care while permitting limited visitation.

The visitation program for certified residential facilities will be instituted June 19, 2020. After evaluation by OPWDD, in collaboration with the New York State Department of Health (DOH) and participating certified residential facilities, this guidance may be modified. Until further notice, the visitation restrictions remain in place for non-participating facilities. **In order to be eligible for visitation under this guidance, the facility must attest to its ability to adhere to the following requirements:**

- The facility sets the appropriate hours during which visitation may occur, based upon the size and needs of the home, staffing available, and ability to implement appropriate disinfection between visits;
- All visits must be scheduled ahead of time and approved by the provider agency. Visits shall be staggered so as not to have multiple families visiting in a shared space at one time and to ensure adequate time to clean any common areas or high touch surfaces between visits. Providers should be cognizant of the time spent visiting in order to maximize access to visitation by all residents;
- All other residents should be notified ahead of time that visitors will be present and advised how to remain socially distant from them;
- Providers should thoroughly discuss the potential risks and benefits of the visitor's presence with the visitor and the resident ahead of a scheduled visit;
- Visitors should be limited and, where multiple visitors are permitted, then such visitors should be, to the extent possible, members of the same family or household;
- All visitors should be 18 years of age or older, except in rare exceptions as determined by the facility;
- Prior to each scheduled visit, visitors must undergo symptom and temperature checks by facility staff and shall be denied visitation if they report any COVID-19 exposure or symptoms during the prior 14 days, or have a temperature over 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit;
- Visitors must be provided a face mask if they do not arrive with one and that mask must be properly worn throughout the entirety of the visit when social distancing cannot be maintained;
- Visitors who refuse to wear a face mask must be asked to leave the facility;
- Visitors must sanitize their hands upon arrival and perform meticulous hand hygiene throughout the visit;
- Visitation is encouraged to occur outdoors if weather permits, with masks worn by all parties when social distancing cannot be maintained;
- Visitation exercised inside the facility shall only occur in a designated area where disinfection, social distancing, and separation from other residents can be safely implemented;
- Visits may occur in single bedrooms, ideally. Visitors must remain in the resident's room throughout the visit except when directed by staff to leave;
- Visitation remains prohibited anywhere except within sight of the residential facility and shall not include sitting in a non-agency vehicle or leaving the premises unmonitored by staff;

- Visitation must not occur with any individuals who are currently in quarantine due to exposure for COVID-19 or isolation for a positive COVID-19 test;
- Providers must notify visitors, at the time they are scheduling a visit, whether there are any positive or suspected cases of COVID-19 in the home;
- Any areas of the facility utilized by the visitor(s) shall be disinfected immediately following the visit; and
- Facilities shall maintain a daily log of all visitors, which shall include names and contact information, as well as the location within the facility/property that visitation occurred.

Facilities wishing to permit visitation under this guidance shall notify OPWDD and attest to their ability to meet the criteria herein by emailing the attached attestation to quality@opwdd.ny.gov.

All facilities opting to allow visitation under this guidance reserve the right to impose additional restrictions, upon notice to and approval by OPWDD. Additionally, any facility opting to allow visitation under this guidance reserves the right to cease participation and end visitation access while visitation restrictions otherwise remain in place, upon notice to OPWDD.



Creating Opportunities for Happy Lives

June 19, 2020

Dear Family Members and Caregivers,

We hope this letter finds you and your loved ones in good health. Thank you for your understanding and patience during the past three months. Being unable to visit your loved ones has only added to the stress and uncertainty you undoubtedly feel. We are happy to report that as of June 19, 2020, OPWDD has lifted the ban on visitation to residences. Unfortunately, home visits and outings are still not permitted. We are required to follow these safety protocols, but please keep in mind that this may change at any time.

- *Visitation hours will be available seven days a week from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.*
- *To schedule a visit, contact house management staff at least one day prior to your visit.*
- *Only one family is permitted to visit at a time.*
- *Each visit is limited to no more than one hour per day but there is no limit to the number of visits a family can schedule. Please be respectful of the needs of other families.*
- *All visitors must be eighteen years of age or older.*
- *Family members are required to wear a mask for the full length of their visit. EEDA staff will provide a mask for visitors who do not have one.*
- *Upon arrival, each visitor must undergo symptoms and temperature checks by EEDA staff, and shall be denied visitation if they report any COVID-19 exposure or symptoms during the prior fourteen days, or have a temperature higher than 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit.*
- *Family members are required to wear a mask for the full length of their visit. EEDA staff will provide a mask for visitors who do not have one.*
- *Families can bring meals or snacks for their loved one, but are required to maintain a six foot social distance for the duration of their visit.*
- *When appropriate, the designated meeting area will be outdoors. When that is not possible, EEDA staff will arrange for an indoor meeting location.*
- *Staff may be present during the visit, depending on the needs of the individual.*
- *Visiting areas will be disinfected after the visit is complete.*

Please read EEDA's Family Visitation Protocols document in its entirety before scheduling your visit. Thank you for your cooperation during this difficult time. Please stay safe and healthy. We know how hard this is and we are doing the best we can to protect your loved one and all EEDA staff.

Sincerely Yours,

Lisa Major Fental

Lisa Meyer Fertal
Chief Executive Officer



Creating Opportunities for Happy Lives!

EEDA Family Visitation Protocols

On March 18, 2020, OPWDD issued a Health Advisory: COVID-19 Guidance for Operators of Individualized Residential Alternatives (IRAs), Community Residences (CRs) and Private Schools Regarding Visitation which suspended visitation within our IRAs. On June 17, 2020 NYS lifted the suspension of visits with visits beginning on June 19, 2020 with specific guidelines that must be followed. The opportunity for family members to visit must be done in a manner that continues to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and ensure the health and well-being of all individuals living in EEDA's IRAs. After evaluation by OPWDD, in collaboration with the New York State Department of Health (DOH) and participating certified residential facilities, such as EEDA this guidance may be modified. It is anticipated that this is the first phase of visits and are subject to change as necessary. In order to be eligible for visitation under these guidelines, EEDA must attest to its ability to adhere to the following requirements:

1. Visits can be scheduled seven days a week from 10:00 am until 8:00 pm. Visits shall be staggered so as not to have multiple families visiting in a shared space at one time and to ensure adequate time to clean any common areas or high touch surfaces between visits.
2. In order to allow for fairness in scheduling, family members need to schedule visits at least one day in advance with the EEDA Residential Managers. No unannounced or unscheduled visits will be allowed.
3. The Residential Managers should thoroughly discuss the potential risks and benefits of the visitor's presence when the family is scheduling the visit and with the individual ahead of a scheduled visit. They must also notify visitors, at the time they are scheduling a visit, whether there are any positive or suspected cases of COVID-19 in the home.
4. Visitation must not occur with any individuals who are currently in quarantine due to exposure for COVID-19 or isolation for a positive COVID-19 test.
5. Visits should last no more than one hour.
6. All other individuals living in the IRA should be notified ahead of time that visitors will be present and advised how to remain socially distant from them.
7. Family members are able to bring snacks or a meal to share with their loved one but EEDA asks that they follow the six foot social distancing recommendation while eating.
8. The visits will be limited to two family members at a time per visit, and each visitor must be 18 years or older.
9. Visits are to be limited to designated areas only where separation from other residents can be safely implemented. Family members will be asked not to access other areas of the residence. The preferred designated meeting areas will be outside of the residence on the back deck or lawn. If an outside visit is not feasible (i.e. rain), other

arrangements for a meeting place inside the residence will be determined by the supervisory staff. Recreation rooms and individuals' bedrooms are other options for visits.

10. Staff may be present during the visits, depending on the needs of the individuals.
11. Visitation remains prohibited anywhere except within sight of the residential facility and shall not include sitting in a non-agency vehicle or leaving the premises unmonitored by staff.
12. Upon arrival, each visitor must undergo symptoms and temperature checks by EEDA staff, and shall be denied visitation if they report any COVID-19 exposure or symptoms during the prior fourteen days, or have a temperature higher than 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit.
13. All family members will be expected to wear masks and must be properly worn throughout the entirety of the visit. If they do not have a mask, EEDA staff will provide one. Visitors who refuse to wear a face mask must be asked to leave the facility.
14. Family members must maintain a six foot social distance from individuals when possible. Individuals will also be encouraged to maintain the six foot social distance and wear a mask.
15. There is no limit to the number of visits that a family may schedule, but EEDA asks that the families be respectful of the other individuals in the IRA and the access for other families for visits.
16. Facilities shall maintain a daily log of all visitors, which shall include names and contact information, as well as the location within the facility/property that visitation occurred.
17. The designated areas will be cleaned and disinfected after the visit is completed.

**ATTENTION
ALL VISITORS**



**NO VISITORS
ARE ALLOWED
AT THIS TIME**

If you feel there is an urgent need for visitation,
please contact _____ .

DO NOT VISIT



July 10, 2020

Reintroduction of Individuals to Certified Residences After Extended Home Visits

On March 24, 2020, the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) issued “Health Advisory: COVID-19 Suspension of Community Outings and Home Visits”, which suspended community outings and home visits for individuals living in certified residential facilities. This policy aimed to safeguard and maintain the health and wellbeing of residents and staff, while containing and preventing the spread of COVID-19.

After the successful efforts of New Yorkers to flatten the curve and reduce virus transmission, OPWDD recognizes the need for individuals to return to certified residential facilities, following extended stays with family. The purpose of this guidance is to ensure the return of individuals is done as safely as possible. Effective July 15, 2020 for regions of the State that have entered into Phase Four in accordance the New York Forward Reopening Plan, individuals may return to their residence in accordance with the requirements herein.

Individuals Returning to Their Residential Facility

Any individual on a home visit during the implementation of the March 24, 2020 guidance, or who thereafter went on a home visit, who desires to now return to the residential facility must be permitted to do so consistent with this guidance. To safely accept an individual back to the home, the following conditions must be met:

- In the 14 days preceding the individual’s return, the residential facility must have no known or suspected cases of COVID-19;
- The individual must have not knowingly been in close or proximate contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or who has or had symptoms of COVID-19; and
- Confirm that for the 14 days prior to the individual’s return to the facility, the individual confirm in writing that the individual did not display any of the following symptoms in the 14 days prior to return:
 - Fever of 100.0°F or greater;
 - Cough;
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
 - Chills;
 - Muscle aches;
 - Headache;
 - Sore throat;
 - Abdominal pain;
 - Vomiting;
 - Diarrhea;
 - Runny nose;
 - Fatigue;
 - Wheezing; and/or
 - New loss of taste or smell.

If any of these symptoms are noted, the family should be referred to their medical provider or the Local Department of Health for assessment and testing.

Facilities should observe returning residents for signs and symptoms of illness for 14 days after return to the residential facility.

Please note that an individual returning to a residential facility following an extended home visit may need to follow precautionary quarantine measures upon return, which should be implemented in collaboration with the Local Department of Health. The residential facility shall additionally periodically review the Covid-19 Travel

Advisory website: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>. A negative test prior to entry will not eliminate the need for such quarantine.



July 10, 2020

Home Visits for Individuals Residing in OPWDD Certified Residential Facilities

On March 24, 2020, OPWDD issued “Health Advisory: COVID-19 Suspension of Community Outings and Home Visits”, which suspended community outings and home visits for individuals living in certified residential facilities. This policy aimed to safeguard and maintain the health and wellbeing of residents and staff, while containing and preventing the spread of COVID-19 during the State’s initial growth phase of the public health emergency.

OPWDD’s March 24, 2020 guidance related to home visits is hereby rescinded and replaced with the following guidance. Effective July 15, 2020 for regions of the State that have entered into Phase Four in accordance the New York Forward Reopening Plan, and until further notice, home visits may recommence for individuals living within OPWDD certified residential facilities, consistent with the restrictions herein.

A. Interim Requirements for Participating in Home Visits

Individuals may resume participation in home and family visits with all appropriate risk mitigation strategies in place. These include safe social distancing, use of masks or other face coverings when tolerated, meticulous attention to hand washing and proper cleaning and disinfection.

Families must be reminded that during any off-site visit, exposure to members of different households and to public places, in general, should be done with caution and on a limited basis. Good hygiene must be practiced and safe social distancing should be maintained, whenever possible. Consistent with Executive Order 202.17, masks must be worn in public whenever social distancing cannot be maintained, to the extent they can be medically tolerated.

Individuals may participate in home or family visits only if all of the following circumstances are met:

1. The individual is not suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, and is not under any quarantine or isolation requirements;
2. The individual passes a health screen and temperature check immediately prior to leaving the certified residence;
3. The individual washes their hands immediately prior to their departure from and return to the residence;
4. The location(s) of the visit does not include: (a) any household member suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19; (b) any household member who has been exposed to COVID-19 in the prior 14 days; or (c) any household member displays any symptoms of COVID-19 in the preceding 14 days; AND
5. Staff should remind families to ensure that individuals are washing and/or sanitizing hands throughout the day, implementing social distancing whenever possible, and wearing face coverings whenever social distancing cannot be maintained in public.
 - Prior to home visits, staff should discuss strategies to best implement these practices and ensure that families have face coverings if needed

B. Interim Transportation Requirements for Home Visits

The following measures will be required for agency vehicles used to transport individuals to home visits:

- Only individuals and staff from the same facility should be transported together. Individuals and staff from other certified residences shall not be intermingled for purposes of transportation;
- Capacity on agency buses, vans, and other vehicles should be reduced to no more than 50% of total capacity, to maximize social distancing and reduce COVID-19 transmission risks;
- To the greatest extent possible, individuals and staff should restrict close contact by not sitting near each other or the driver. The use of directional tape and signage can assist in accomplishing this. Additionally, if there are multiple doors in a bus or van, one-way entering and exiting should be utilized. Individuals should be directed to not exit the vehicle at once, instead following driver or staff instruction on exiting one person at a time;
- To the extent individuals can medically tolerate one, individuals, staff, and the driver must wear a face covering at all times in the vehicle. Staff who cannot medically tolerate the use of a face covering should not be assigned to transport individuals;
- After each trip is completed, the interior of the agency vehicle should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before additional individuals are transported;
- Where appropriate and safe, windows should be rolled down to permit air flow; and
- Individuals utilizing public or other transit should be reminded of the importance of social distancing and good hygiene and should be provided with hand sanitizer for use immediately following such transportation.

C. Interim Documentation Requirements for Home Visits

In order to be able to sufficiently trace and track any potential COVID-19 exposure, providers are required to maintain a daily log of all home visits and other visits off site from the certified residence. Daily logs must include the following information:

- The names of any individuals who participated in a home visit, including the address of the home visit, and the dates and times such visit started and ended;
- Confirmation that person(s) picking up or receiving an individual for a home visit denied that anyone in the household was currently under isolation or quarantine for COVID-19;
- Confirmation that person(s) picking up or receiving an individual for a home visit denied that anyone in the housing had any known exposure to COVID-19 in the prior 14 days;
- Confirmation that person(s) picking up or receiving an individual for a home visit denied that anyone in the household has exhibited any of the following symptoms within the last 14 days:
 - Cough;
 - Fever of 100.0 degrees or greater;
 - Sore Throat;
 - Shortness of breath;
 - Headache;
 - Chills;
 - Muscle Pain; and/or
 - New loss of taste or smell.
- Confirmation that the individual participating in the visit passed their health screen immediately prior to participating in the home visit;
- Addresses of any and all places the individual spent time during the home visit, including the names of other people spending time in close contact (within 6 feet) or proximate contact; AND
- Confirmation that the individual passed their health screen upon return from the home visit.

All logs may be required to be produced to OPWDD at any time.

D. Additional Safety Information, Guidelines, and Resources Available

New York State Department of Health Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Website
<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/>

New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) Website
<https://opwdd.ny.gov/coronavirus-guidance>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus (COVID-19) Website:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>



July 10, 2020

Interim Guidance Regarding Community Outings for Individuals Residing in OPWDD Certified Residential Facilities

On March 24, 2020, the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities' (OPWDD) issued "COVID-19: Suspension of Community Outings and Home Visitation". That guidance document is hereby rescinded and replaced with the following guidance related to community outings.

Effective July 15, 2020 for regions of the State that have entered into Phase Four in accordance the New York Forward Reopening Plan, community outings may resume for individuals living within OPWDD certified residential facilities. Furthermore, individuals may resume low risk activities, such as going to medical or professional service appointments and work, and participating in community-based outings, as described below, to the extent permitted by NY Forward, and consistent with the restrictions of this guidance and all applicable NYS directives.

A. Interim Restrictions for Community Outings from Certified Residential Facilities

In order to prevent further community spread or increased risk of infection, residential providers shall ensure that the following conditions are met:

- Individuals shall not participate in community outings if any individual or staff member working in the home is suspected or confirmed positive for COVID-19;
- Any person who had close or proximate contact to a confirmed positive individual within the last 14 days, or any person experiencing symptom(s) consistent with COVID-19, such as cough, fever, shortness of breath or trouble breathing, chills, muscle pain, new or worsening headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell must not participate in a community outing. Individuals that are close or proximate contacts or experiencing symptom(s) consistent with COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider or local health department for recommended next steps;
- The number of individuals permitted in a community outing shall be within the discretion of the facility, based on the ability to maintain safety, but should be as small as possible. Groups shall include no more than 10 people inclusive of staff members and should be cohorted with individuals in regular contact (e.g. roommates or housemates);
- Low risk, outdoor activities are encouraged whenever possible;
- Community outings to stores, outdoor restaurants, salons, etc., should be extremely limited in frequency and duration and must abide by the capacity limitations of such locations;
- Planned recreational community outings should be limited to one location per day for any individual participating;
- Hands should be washed/sanitized immediately prior to leaving the home and immediately upon return to the home;

- Staff must bring hand sanitizer and ensure all individuals are washing and/or sanitizing hands throughout the community outing, whenever surfaces such as door handles, counters, public benches, and store shelves are touched;
- Social distancing principles must be adhered to, to the greatest extent possible;
- Face coverings shall be brought on public outings and individuals must be encouraged to wear the covering at all times. Everyone who is medically able to tolerate a mask must wear one when unable to maintain social distancing;
- There should be no unnecessary interaction with other members of the public while on a community outing; and
- When planning outings, staff should be aware of various capacity restrictions for businesses and should consider calling ahead, where possible, to ensure group size can be accommodated

Individuals who participate in community outings without staff present must be provided with hand sanitizer and a face covering and should understand the risks and obligations of public exposure, as well as the expectations regarding reporting as outlined below.

B. Interim Transportation Requirements for Community Outings

Community outings requiring transportation to and from a location should be implemented on a limited basis and only when providers of certified residential facilities can ensure that all infection control and mitigation strategies will be applied during the transportation of individuals to and from community outings. The following measures will be required in order to transport individuals for community outings:

- Only individuals and staff from the same facility should be transported together. Individuals or staff from other residences should not be intermingled for purposes of transportation;
- Capacity on buses, vans, and other vehicles should be reduced to 50% of total capacity to maximize social distancing and reduce COVID-19 transmission risks;
- To the greatest extent possible, individuals and staff should restrict close contact by not sitting near each other or the driver. The use of directional tape and signage can assist in accomplishing this. Additionally, if there are multiple doors in a bus or van, one-way entering and exiting should be utilized. Individuals should be directed to not exit the vehicle at once, instead following driver or staff instruction on exiting one person at a time;
- To the extent individuals can medically tolerate a face covering, individuals, staff, and the driver must wear face coverings at all times in the vehicle. Staff who cannot medically tolerate the use of a face covering should not be assigned to transport individuals;
- After each trip is completed, the interior of the vehicle should be thoroughly sanitized and disinfected before additional individuals are transported.
- Where appropriate and safe, windows should be rolled down to permit air flow.

C. Interim Documentation Requirements for Community Outings

In order to be able to sufficiently trace and track any potential COVID-19 exposure, in addition to the requirements set forth above, providers are required to maintain a daily log of all community outings from the home. Logs must contain the following information:

- The names of all individuals and staff members who participate in each community outing throughout the day;
- Confirmation that each person passed the daily health screen and temperature check, per OPWDD's April 28, 2020 guidance, "Revised Staff Guidance for the Management of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Facilities or Programs Operated and/or Certified by the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities", available at https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/06/6.12.2020-opwdd_covid19_staffguidance_updated-symptoms.pdf, and any successor thereto;
- The location, including address, where the community outing occurred;
- The times the outing started and ended;
- The transportation that was used for each outing, where applicable; and
- Any additional notes that are relevant or may inform increased precaution on future outings. These logs may be required to be produced to OPWDD at any time.

D. Additional Safety Information, Guidelines, and Resources Available

New York State Department of Health Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Website
<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/>

New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) Website
<https://opwdd.ny.gov/coronavirus-guidance>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus (COVID-19) Website:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>