



# COMMUNITY INTEGRATION FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN OPWDD CERTIFIED HOUSES

**MARCH 24, 2020**

On March 24, 2020, the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities suspended all community integrations in response to COVID-19.

Effective July 15, 2020 for areas who have entered phase 4 as part of the New York Forward Reopening Plan, community integrations may begin. Including activities considered low risk, such as medical and professional service appointments and work as permitted by NY Forward. Such activities must follow OPWDD's guidance and any NYS directives.

## OPWDD GUIDANCE

- People will not participate in community outings if any person or staff member working in the home is suspected or confirmed positive for COVID-19.
- Anybody in close contact to someone confirmed positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days, or someone exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms will not participate in community outings and should contact their healthcare provider.
- The number of people on a community integration is determined by the provider agency but should be as small as possible. Recreational outings should be limited to one per day per person.
- Staff will bring hand sanitizer and ensure people are washing hands throughout the trip.
- Masks will be brought on all community integrations and people will be encouraged to wear it at all times. If medically able to tolerate a mask must always be worn if unable to maintain social distancing.
- Unnecessary interactions with other members of the community should be avoided.
- Anyone who independently goes into the community will be provided hand sanitizer and a mask. They should understand risks involved, and reporting expectations noted below.

## TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES

- Staff and people from the same home can ride in a vehicle together at 50% or less of the vehicle's total capacity.
- Staff and people supported must wear a mask in vehicle when medically tolerated. Staffing that cannot medically tolerate a mask should not be transporting people.
- The interior of the vehicle should be thoroughly sanitized and disinfected before being used again.
- To increase air flow, roll down windows when safe and appropriate.

## INTERIM DOCUMENTATION FOR EACH OUTING

Documentation to include the names of the staff and people, confirmation they met the requirements of the daily health screening, location of outing, start and end time, vehicle used.

Please contact your provider for their specific policies and procedures.