



HOME VISIT GUIDANCE FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN AN OPWDD CERTIFIED RESIDENTIAL FACILITY

MARCH 24, 2020

On March 24, 2020, as a result of COVID-19 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.

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 restart for people living within OPWDD certified residential facilities.

OPWDD GUIDANCE

People 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, and proper cleaning and disinfection of hands. People may participate in home or family visits only if all of the following circumstances are met:

- The person is not suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, and is not under any quarantine or isolation requirements.
- The person must wash their hands immediately prior to their departure from and return to the residence.
- The location being visited does not involve any household member suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, any household member who has been exposed to COVID-19 in the prior 14 days, any household member displays any symptoms of COVID-19 in the preceding 14 days.
- Families should be reminded the people 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.
- Staff will discuss strategies to best implement these strategies. Ensuring that families have face coverings if needed.

TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES:

- Only people and staff traveling to and from the same day program should be transported together; people or staff from other day programs should not be intermingled for purposes of transportation.
- Capacity on buses, vans, and other vehicles transporting people from multiple residences should be reduced to 50% of total capacity.
- To the extent possible, people and staff from different households should restrict close contact by not sitting near each other.
- To the extent they can medically tolerate one, people supported, 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 people 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 people at this time.



TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES CONTINUED

- After each trip is completed, the interior of the vehicle should be thoroughly cleaned before additional individuals are transported.
- Where appropriate and safe, windows should be rolled down to permit air flow.
- People 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.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Daily logs of home visits will be kept by the provider, noting the following information.

- Name of person participating in home visit, address of visit, dates, start and end time.
- Confirmation that the pick up person confirms that no one in the household is under isolation or quarantine for COVID-19, or has been exposed to COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- Confirmation that no one in the household had experienced of the following symptoms in the last 14 days (cough, fever of 100 degrees or higher, sore throat, shortness of breath, headache, chills, muscle pain, loss of smell or taste).
- Confirmation the person supported passed their health screening prior to visit.
- Address of all places visited, to include names and contact information of people who spent time within 6 feet of the person supported.
- Confirmation the person supported passed their health screening upon return from visit

Please contact your provider for their specific policies and procedures.

[View complete guidance here](#)

