

# MSC E-VISORY

Issue #32-12

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State of New York Office for People With Developmental Disabilities  
Courtney Burke, Commissioner  
Distributed by: Division of Person-Centered Supports  
Gerald Huber, Acting Deputy Commissioner

The MSC E-Visory is an electronic advisory which provides pertinent and timely information about programs and services available to individuals receiving MSC. Announcements about MSC training, conferences and meetings appear regularly. **MSC Supervisors: Please share this issue with all MSC Service Coordinators and others as appropriate.** In order to receive an email notification when a new MSC E-Visory is posted, please sign up for our mailing list (listserv). Listserv information and past issues can be accessed via the OPWDD website at [www.opwdd.ny.gov](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov) or via the following link: [http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd\\_services\\_supports/service\\_coordination/medicaid\\_service\\_coordination/msc\\_e-visories](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd_services_supports/service_coordination/medicaid_service_coordination/msc_e-visories)

## **In This Issue:**

### **MSC Guidance Related to Storm Impact of Hurricane Sandy**

#### **Introduction**

Over the last week tremendous efforts have been undertaken to respond to the needs of people with developmental disabilities who have faced negative risk or impact from the storm. The impact has been most significant in the NYC and Long Island areas but numerous circumstances such as power outages and property damage have resulted in special need situations for people receiving supports and services.

While we know that there has been an active and diligent response to the storm, to ensure health and safety for people receiving supports, at this time we are directing that all Service Coordinators or, in their absence, responsible supervisors, complete a safety check for all people for whom they coordinate supports.

#### **MSC Actions:**

- Please make contact with all people on your caseload or their support givers to complete a safety check. The check should focus on the current status of the person's living environment and the safety of the person. Specifically:
  - Check on the status of power and heat
  - Identify any property damage that could pose a risk to the person
  - Identify the supports that are in place
  - Discuss a plan to get help if the need arises, and
  - Document the outcome of the check and any related plan of support implemented
- If any immediate risk exists, a plan should be developed and implemented with the person to maximize their health and safety
- Where challenges in developing a plan exist, reach out to supervisors, administrators or your OPWDD Regional Office contacts to assist in getting the support needed

#### **MSC Supervisors:**

- Verify that safety checks have been completed as described above
- Ensure that coverage of this critical contact occurs where MSCs are not available
- Assist MSC staff to identify risks that may need to be addressed
- Identify and communicate any area where risks require DDRO involvement
- Reach out to appropriate administrative support within your agency and the DDRO to seek help where needed

In order to support providers during this critical period Emergency Offices have been designated in Regions and in OPWDD's Central Office to provide additional guidance and assistance if needed.

**Contact Information for OPWDD's Central Emergency Operations Center:**

518-402-4721

518-402-4814

[Safety.security@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:Safety.security@opwdd.ny.gov)

**Contact Information for OPWDD's Regional Office Emergency Operations Centers:**

RO Region 3 EOC for Hudson Valley and Taconic:

Walkkill ICF

118 Rykowski Lane,

Middletown, NY 10941

Phone Number: (845) 692-4774

RO Region 4 EOC for Boroughs of NYC:

Bernard M. Fineson. 718 468-7903

RO Region 5 EOC for Long Island:

Long Island Developmental Disabilities Services Office

415A Oser Avenue Hauppauge, NY 11788 Office

(631) 434-6141

FAX (631) 434-6139

The storm has caused significant damage and loss of power which is expected to continue for a period of days or weeks. It is imperative to ensure that people who have needs and may not be able to connect to necessary supports are given the help they need at this critical time. Working together we can minimize the negative impact of this storm. Thank you for the anticipated immediate response to this guidance.