



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.