

From: Josh Christiana <Christianaj@thearcny.org>

Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2020 9:41 AM

To: Executive Directors <ExecDirectors@nysarc.org>; Chapter COO <COO@nysarc.org>; Board of Governors <BoardofGovernors@thearcny.org>; Chapter Presidents <ChapterPresidents@nysarc.org>; Executive Committee <ExecutiveCommittee@nysarc.org>; Compliance and QA <ComplianceandQA@nysarc.org>

Cc: State Office Staff & Trust Managers <ArcNYstaff&TrustManagers@thearcny.org>

Subject: HIGH ALERT READ ASAP: Important Health Advisory and Guidance for Congregate Facilities

Importance: High

Good morning. In response to localized outbreaks of COVID-19 and the Governor's "Cluster Initiative", the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities and New York State Department of Health have released guidance for certified programs and facilities within identified geographic areas of concern. Links to the guidance and a summary can be found in the email below.

The mitigation strategies detailed within the guidance below are in effect starting this Sunday, October 25th at 3pm. Chapters that operate programs and facilities within these areas will be notified by OPWDD; however, *we strongly encourage Chapters to be proactive in routinely monitoring the cluster activity within and around their geographic area.* Providers may check the current status of an area [here](#). Maps of current clusters and zone designation are maintained at <https://forward.ny.gov/>. These maps are subject to regular change in response to the daily changes in data.

OPWDD is holding a meeting with the Provider Association this morning to offer more details and guidance. We will continue to offer more information as it becomes available.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Joshua Christiana, M.A.Ed., CHC, CHSP

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For COVID-19 related guidance and resources please visit our webpage at:

<https://www.thearcny.org/news/covid-19-resources>

[Website](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#)



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From: Office for People With Developmental Disabilities <NYSOPWDD@public.govdelivery.com>

Sent: Friday, October 23, 2020 8:35 PM

To: Josh Christiana <Christianaj@thearcny.org>

Subject: Important Health Advisory and Guidance for Congregate Facilities



**Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities**

Important Health Advisory and Guidance for Congregate Facilities

Dear Stakeholders,

Attached please find [guidance issued today](#) by the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities and the New York State Department of Health (DOH) regarding certified facilities located within certain geographic zones designated as high COVID-19 positivity clusters. The mitigation measures outlined in each are effective Sunday, October 25th at 3pm, and are part of Governor Cuomo's data-based strategy of aggressively responding to micro-clusters in order to limit COVID-19 spread via the [Cluster Action Initiative](#).

Please be advised that the exception outlined by DOH regarding visitation for an essential companion applies only to those instances when an individual with I/DD is temporarily out of the home for hospitalization and requires support. There is no exception for visitation of an essential companion within a certified residential facility at this time.

Home visits and community outings will remain allowable from OPWDD-certified residential settings to the extent they may be exercised safely and in compliance with all previously issued guidance. We are hopeful that these additional restrictions will be extremely time limited and will help ensure the health and safety of all individuals who live within these areas, as well as their families and the staff that support them. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Theodore Kastner, MD MS
Commissioner

[Interim COVID-19 Guidance: Designated Cluster Mitigation and Oversight](#)

[Health Advisory: All Residential Congregate Facilities](#)

[New York Forward Cluster Action Initiative](#)

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