



Sullivan-Orange Counties
New York

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A Chapter of The Arc New York

Steven Drobysch
President

J. Richard Schwartz
Executive Director

10/30/2020

Dear Parent/Guardian/Family Member,

I write to you today to provide an update on our ongoing responses to the Coronavirus pandemic, and steps we are taking in response to the Governor's recent announcement of his 'cluster action initiative'. OPWDD has issued guidance to providers on actions they must take if programs are located in a Red, Orange, or Yellow Zone. That guidance can be read in full here, or by typing the following web address into your browser:
https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/10/10.23.2020-cluster-zone-mitigation-guidance_final.pdf

Currently, none of our day habilitation programs are located within a yellow, orange, or red zone. OPWDD will be notifying providers if any program they operate are located in a Red, Orange or Yellow Zone. Should we receive notification that we have any programs in any zone we will take the following steps:

Red Zone: Any site based program located in a Red Zone will temporarily close. We will make every effort to relocate your family member to an alternate Site that is not located in a Red or Orange zone. This may not be possible in every situation due to limited transportation capacity and limited capacity at sites. We will prioritize services for people living in the community, family members of front line workers and first responders, and those with significant needs.

Orange Zone: Any site based program located in an Orange Zone will temporarily close. We will make every effort to relocate your family member to an alternate site that is not located in a Red or Orange zone. This may not be possible in every situation due to limited transportation capacity and limited capacity at sites. We will prioritize services for people living in the community, family members of front line workers and first responders, and those with significant needs.

Yellow Zone: Programs remain open if they are located in a Yellow Zone. We will be encouraging staff to go for weekly testing, or more frequently if they wish to. We encourage people supported to go for regular testing as well as their family members. Tests are available at no cost to staff at Garnet Health Urgent Care locations in Orange and Sullivan County. Attached to this letter is a listing of test sites in Orange and Sullivan Counties.

Achieve with us.



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What if I live in a Red, Orange or Yellow Zone, and attend a program outside of the zone? If you live in a Red or Orange Zone attendance at program will be determined on an individual basis (the Care Manager or QIDP will be asked to facilitate a meeting) taking into account the following considerations:

- Individual medical conditions and risk profile
- Family situation and status

If you live in a yellow zone, program will operate with additional testing recommended for staff and people supported.

What if your staff live in a Red, Orange, or Yellow Zone and work in a program outside of the zone?

We are checking daily and advising those staff that live in an identified zone to go for testing. We require all staff to wear necessary PPE while at work, and to maintain social distancing. Our programs have been reconfigured to minimize all unnecessary contact between individual groups and staff, and between staff not working with the same group.

We understand that program closures have significant impact on your daily routines, and those of your family. We will work with you in circumstances where we have to close a program to provide services - either remotely if this is a format that works for your family member, or in person using the array of service flexibilities we have been provided with during this pandemic. We will communicate with you by phone, email, and social media if we have a program location in a zone, about the type of zone and impact on our programs.

Please reach out to your program manager if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Kevin Larrayg, Associate Executive Director

Achieve with us.