The Self-Advocacy Association of New York State

(SANYS)

OPWDD Guidance for Community Outings for people living in Certified Residences (Group Homes)

July 24, 2020
OPWDD shared guidance for people who live in group homes to go out into the community

SANYS hopes reading this document helps people understand the guidance

We also want to hear from you about your experiences with going out into the community
OPWDD says people should be able to go out into the community if their region is in Phase 4 of reopening.

Right now, all regions of the state are in Phase 4.

You can check what Phase your region is in by going to forward.ny.gov.
If everyone at a house is healthy, and if everyone at the house has avoided contact with anyone who might be sick, then **OPWDD** says people can go out into the community.

**OPWDD** has given some guidance on what they think will keep people safe on community outings.

**OPWDD** wants the groups that staff go out with to be no larger than 10 people (including staff).
When leaving the house, **OPWDD** wants people to stay outdoors if they can.

If you have to go somewhere indoors, or somewhere crowded, **OPWDD** wants you to keep the visit as short as possible.

**OPWDD** says people should only go to 1 location every day if possible.
OPWDD wants people washing their hands before they leave home, and when they come back.

OPWDD wants staff making sure people are washing their hands and using hand sanitizer when they are out.

When going out, OPWDD wants people to be social distancing and staying at least 6 ft away from other people as much as possible.
OPWDD wants everyone to be wearing face masks or coverings unless they have a medical reason not to.

OPWDD wants staff to be making sure the places that people are going to are not too crowded.

OPWDD wants people going out to understand the responsibilities they have and the risks of going out.
If someone is going out without staff, **OPWDD** wants them to also report some information about where they went and who they had contact with.

**OPWDD** wants community outings where you have to use transportation to be as few as possible.

If you have to use agency transportation **OPWDD** wants it to only be with people from your own residence.
OPWDD wants agency transportation to only be half full at most.

OPWDD wants staff to help people learn about safety measures and encourage people to use safety measures when taking any kind of transportation.

OPWDD says staff should be keeping a log of who went out, where they went, times, transportation, and health information.
There are some reasons why OPWDD would not want you to go out into the community

If any resident at the home might be sick, OPWDD does not want people going out

If any staff at the home might be sick, OPWDD does not want people going out
If anyone at the house had contact with someone who might be sick in the last 14 days, **OPWDD** does not want people going out

**OPWDD** wants anyone who had contact with someone who might be sick to contact a doctor

If you are having trouble going out, you can talk to your **Care Coordinator** to help make a plan that is safe for you and others
We hope this document makes it easier for people to understand how to meet **OPWDD** guidance about going out into the community while keeping themselves and others safe.

**SANYS** wants to keep hearing from you about your experiences going on community outings.

You can contact us at [www.sanys.org](http://www.sanys.org)