



July 24, 2020

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

Office for People With Developmental Disabilities



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



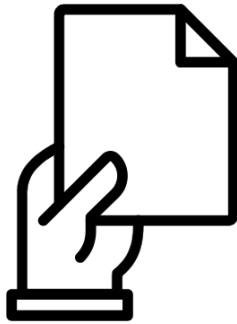
OPWDD says people should be able to go out into the community if their region is in **Phase 4** of reopening

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](https://www.forward.ny.gov)



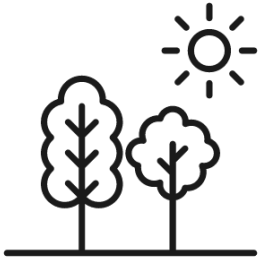
If everyone at a house is healthy, and if everyone at the house has avoided contact with anyone who might be sick, then **OPWDD** says people can go out into the community



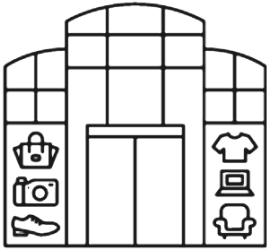
OPWDD has given some guidance on what they think will keep people safe on community outings



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

1x

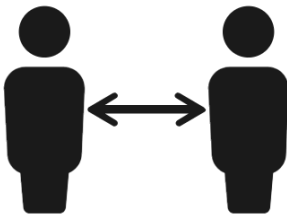
OPWDD says people
should only go to 1 location
every day if possible



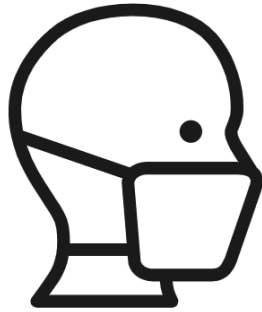
OPWDD wants people washing their hands before they leave home, and when they come back



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



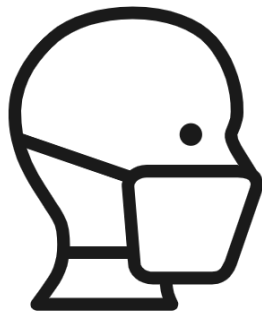
OPWDD wants community outings where you have to use transportation to be as few as possible



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



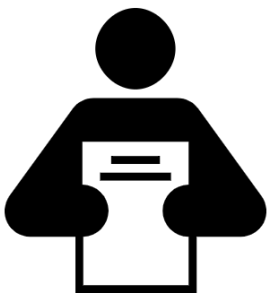
If any staff at the home might be sick, **OPWDD** does not want people going out



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