The Self-Advocacy Association of New York State

(SANYS)

OPWDD Guidance for Day Programs

July 24, 2020
OPWDD shared guidance for day programs reopening

SANYS hopes reading this will help people understand the guidance

We also want to hear from you about your experiences with your day programs as they reopen
OPWDD says day programs should be able to reopen 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](http://forward.ny.gov)
OPWDD says every day program that wants to reopen must have a safety plan

It is up to each agency to decide when and how they open

Some day programs may open up soon, and some may not open up for a while. Every day program will have a different plan
OPWDD says that day programs must have health screenings and temperature checks when people arrive.

OPWDD says that people who have symptoms of COVID-19 cannot attend day programs. (You can find a list of symptoms here: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html))

OPWDD says that people who have tested positive for COVID-19 cannot attend day programs.
OPWDD says that if someone in your home is quarantining or isolating, you cannot attend a day program.

OPWDD says that not everyone will be able to go to day programs.

OPWDD wants day programs to make sure people who need to be at day programs and people who want to be at day programs have priority when letting people come back.
OPWDD says that someone who was sick or had symptoms can attend day program again if they have gone 3 days without having a fever.

OPWDD says day programs must support people to wash their hands throughout the day.

OPWDD says that day programs must work to keep spaces clean and sanitized at all times.
OPWDD says that day programs must keep track of everyone who comes into the day program.

OPWDD says that if a staff person tests positive, they must stay away from the day program for at least 2 weeks.

OPWDD says if a staff has contact with someone who tests positive, and if they have symptoms, they must stay away for 2 weeks. If they don’t have symptoms, they can still work, but must stay away from people.
OPWDD says that people at day programs must have space to stay 6 feet away from each other.

OPWDD says that program spaces can only be used if they are big enough for people to stay 6 feet away from each other.

For most day programs, this means that they will have to have less people in the building.
**OPWDD** says that everyone at the program must wear masks unless they have a medical or disability related reason not to.

**OPWDD** says that people at the day program should be in small groups, no more than 15 people, and should stay in the same groups to prevent contact with others.

**OPWDD** also says that staff should work with the same people every day to prevent contact with others.
OPWDD says day programs should use as much ventilation as possible.

OPWDD says that day programs should avoid using areas of the building where people would be crowded with others.

OPWDD says they know some people cannot socially distance, and when someone cannot, the day program should use PPE.
OPWDD says that programs should make sure that people do not share food or beverages.

OPWDD says that programs should use “split schedules” where different groups use the buildings at different times.

Split schedules may help buildings be less crowded.
OPWDD says that if people are traveling on agency transportation, they should only be with people traveling to the same day program.

OPWDD says agency transportation can only be half full.

OPWDD says people should have space between each other on agency transportation.
SANYS wants people to think about the choices they have around day programs.

You can choose to tell people you prefer to stay home.

At home you can ask to get lighter supports and telehealth by phone or internet.
You can ask your day program to see their safety plan, so that you know what is going to happen at the program.

You can work with your **care coordinator** to make a plan for yourself.

Everyone will be in a different situation, but this may be an opportunity to make a change for yourself.
SANYS wants to keep hearing from you about your experiences with day programs

Let us know what day programs are telling you, and let us know what you would like to change

You can contact us at www.sanys.org