



The Self-Advocacy  
Association of New York  
State

**(SANYS)**



**OPWDD** Guidance for Day  
Programs

**July 24, 2020**

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# Office for People With Developmental Disabilities



**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**



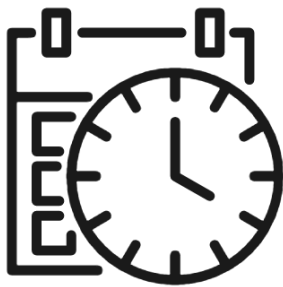
You can check what **Phase** your region is in by going to [forward.ny.gov](https://www.forward.ny.gov)



**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>)



**OPWDD** says that people who have tested positive for COVID-19 cannot attend day programs



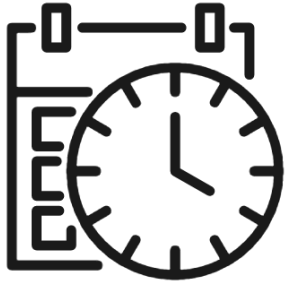
**OPWDD** says that if someone in your home is quarantining or isolating, you cannot attend a day program



**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

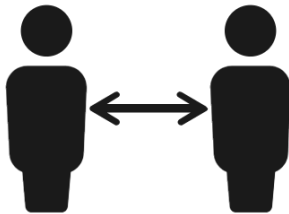


**OPWDD** says that if a staff person tests positive, they must stay away from the day program for at least 2 weeks

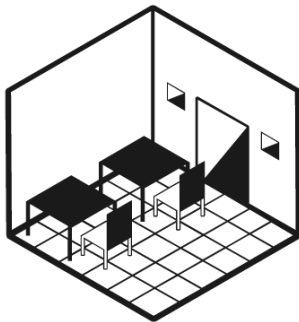


**OPWDD** says if a staff has contact with someone who tests positive, and if they have symptoms, they must stay away for 2 weeks. If they don't have symptoms they can still work, but must stay away from people

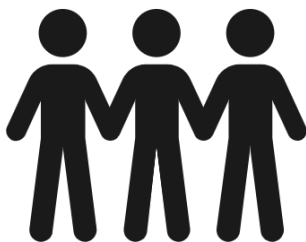




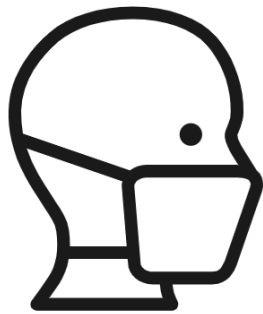
**OPWDD** says that people at day programs must have space to stay 6 feet away from each other



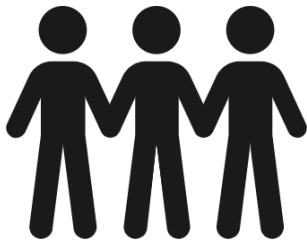
**OPWDD** says that program spaces can only be used if they are big enough for people to stay 6 feet away from each other



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



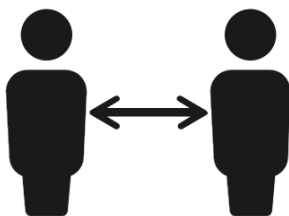
Split schedules may help buildings be less crowded



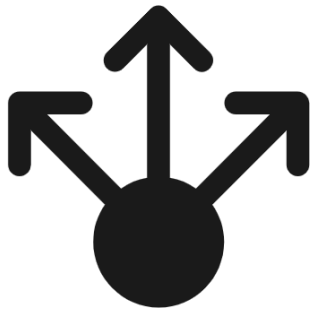
**OPWDD** says that if people are traveling on agency transportation, they should only be with people traveling to the same day program



**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



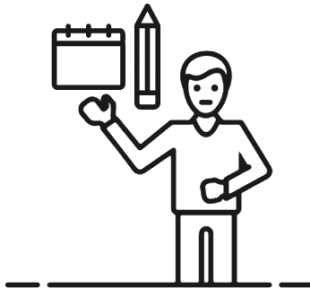
**You can choose to tell people you prefer to stay home**



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](http://www.sanys.org)