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NYSADSA
New York State Adult Day Services Association Inc.

ADULT DAY SERVICES: NY FORWARD AND REIMAGINED

PREPARED & RELEASED BY:

New York State Adult Day Services
Association





COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ADS REOPENING



NYSADSA is committed to the health and well-being of older adults around the state, especially vulnerable populations with chronic health conditions. Older adults who participate in non-medical adult day services (ADS) programs and group respite programs are particularly vulnerable, and their caregivers may be vulnerable as well. Businesses and services have opened according to the regional standards developed by the NYS Governor's Office. Recent updated CDC guidance for Adult Day Services Centers and the New York State Department of Health - Health Advisory: Reopening Guidance for Medical Model Adult Day Health Care pRogram and the NYS has warranted a revision to the previously released COVID-19 Public Health Emergency ADS Reopening Policy and Procedures

ADS programs should review and incorporate the following best practices for reopening. This guidance is meant to supplement - not replace - any Federal, State, Tribal, local, or Territorial Public Health and Safety laws, rules, and regulations with which adult day services center programs must comply.

ADS and group respite programs should consult with public and private agencies that they are contracted with to be informed on current guidance to ensure reimbursement. For example, these would include:

- Area Agencies on Aging or their EISEP contractors
- Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Programs
- State Respite Programs
- Medicaid Managed Long Term Care Plans
- Medicare Advantage Plans
- Any other funders

ADS can be purchased via private pay by caregivers and participants as well.



KEY POINTS: FROM THE CDC



CDC Website Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/adult-day-care-service-centers.html>

- Adult Day Services Centers (ADSCs) provide social or health services to community-dwelling adults aged 65 and over and adults of any age living with disability.
- Older adults and persons with disabilities are at highest risk for severe illness from COVID-19 including hospitalization, intensive care, and death.
- ADSC administrators and staff can help protect themselves and program participants (that is, adults attending ADSCs) from COVID-19 by promoting and engaging in preventive behaviors that reduce spread and maintain healthy operations and environments at ADSC facilities.

Encourage COVID-19 vaccination

- Get vaccinated when vaccine is available to you. Staff of ADSCs may be considered frontline essential workers. Check with your local department of health to see when you and your staff are eligible for vaccination.
- After vaccination continue using appropriate prevention strategies as we learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions.

Visit [Key Things to Know about COVID-19 vaccination](#) for more information.



KEY POINTS: FROM THE CDC



CDC Website Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/adult-day-care-service-centers.html>

Wear a mask and assist participants in wearing theirs

- Staff should wear a mask when in the presence of others. Masks protect the wearer, as well as those around them. Masks work best when everyone wears one.
- Masks should cover your nose and mouth, fit snugly, and have multiple layers.
- Wearing masks may be difficult for people with sensory, cognitive, or behavioral issues; people with some disabilities; or people with dementia. Staff members should pay close attention and provide the necessary support to participants who have trouble remembering to put on a mask, keeping it on, and removing it when needed.
- Masks should not be placed on anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- Masks should not be worn by a person with a disability who cannot wear a mask or cannot safely wear a mask.
- Masks should not be worn by a person for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the workplace risk assessment external icon.
- A mask is not a substitute for physical distancing. Continue to keep at least 6 feet between yourself and others, when possible, even when wearing a mask.
- More information on masks is available at [Guidance on Wearing Masks](#)



NEW YORK CITY: BEFORE OPENING



New York State : Effective May 19, New York has adopted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) “Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People,” issued May 13, for most businesses and public settings.

Please see New York's Implementation Guidance.



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SERVICE DELIVERY

As part of ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, we are sharing guidelines and recommendations for ADS programs to reopen centers and modify the services delivery model to meet the needs and preferences for functionally impaired older adults and individuals with disabilities who have been isolated and homebound through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Providing home and community-based day services through a person-centered individualized plan of care may be operationalized through a variety of services at the ADS center and in alternate settings. Day services must be modified to include all recommended environmental and personal infection control measures, including social distancing and wearing masks to meet the federal Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) appropriate safety precautions and requirements, including:

- On-site at an ADS center, with limited number of participants and staff to maintain social distancing of at least six feet for unvaccinated participants and employees.

- At-home ADS for socialization activities and support services. **Delivery of personal care hands-on services is not allowed** as this could be in violation of state licensure requirement under Article 36.
- 1:1 (one ADS staff with one participant) outings/community integration services
- Socialization and activities through electronic/virtual programming
- Telephonic day services
- Home Delivered Meals, and
- A combination of the above services that will meet the needs and preferences of participants and caregivers.



PARTICIPANT ASSESSMENTS

The ADS program must complete an assessment and service plan of a participant's functional levels and psychosocial needs prior to resuming ADS services.

This will establish current levels of care, needs and preferences for how day services will be delivered, resulting in a person-centered individualized plan of care. ADS assessment is necessary since some participants may have experienced long periods of social isolation, lack of exercise, limited cognitive stimulation and exacerbation of chronic health conditions which affects cognitive, physical and emotional wellbeing. Participants and caregivers may be scared and reluctant to leave their home. Many informal caregivers have been isolated and overwhelmed with caring for their loved one and may have an urgent need for support services, particularly respite.

Prioritization criteria for participating at on-site ADS center:

- Participants whose caregivers are essential workers
- Participants whose caregivers are returning to work
- Participants whose caregivers are in need of respite
- Participants who cannot be left home alone
- Participants who live alone and those that are experiencing loneliness, and
- Participants who are cognitively impaired and physically healthy.





VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Participants who are most vulnerable should follow federal, state, and local guidelines regarding stay-at-home orders. Governor Cuomo announced "Matilda's Law" - a guideline - to protect New Yorkers age 70+ and those with compromised immune systems.

Under these guidelines, vulnerable New Yorkers are advised to:

- Remain indoors
- Go outside for solitary exercise
- Pre-screen all visitors by taking their temperature
- Wear a mask in the company of others
- Stay at least 6 feet from others, and
- Do not take public transportation unless urgent and absolutely necessary.



ENVIRONMENTAL AND PERSONAL INFECTION CONTROL

- All facilities should be completely cleaned and disinfected regularly. All surfaces should be cleaned with an approved CDC sanitizing solution, including all areas that could be touched. These include door handles, all bathroom fixtures, craft supplies that are shared, tabletops, chairs, exercise equipment, floors, kitchens etc.
- Facilities should open ADS centers according to the regional and State guidelines. If the location is limited in size, capacity should be determined based on 6-foot social distancing
- Staff must continue to take their temperature prior to reporting to work daily
- Participant's temperatures must be taken prior to entry to the ADC center, and
- Participants and staff must be screened daily to ask if they are feeling ill, if their family members have been ill, and if they have been exposed to anyone that has been positive for COVID-19.



CONSIDERATIONS

For Participants and Administration

PARTICIPANTS

Participants must pass the health screen prior to each day's service. Participants must be able to wear face masks (cueing/supervision may be provided) for in person services: at-home day services, 1:1 community integration/outings and attending the ADS center. For at-home day services, other individuals in the home at the time of service must be screened and wear masks. An isolated area near the entrance to the facility must be maintained for participants, and staff, who are not successfully screened and must be isolated until they return home or go for medical care.

For programs that service under 250 participants in one setting:

If businesses are implementing the CDC guidance, they may require proof of full vaccination status through paper form, digital application, or the State's Excelsior Pass. Alternatively, such businesses may rely upon self-reporting of vaccination status (e.g., honor system).

- If the business is following the CDC guidance, fully vaccinated individuals do not need to wear masks or be socially distanced, but unvaccinated individuals must continue to wear masks and be socially distanced.
- The business may decide to apply this guidance to the entire establishment or a separate, designated part of the establishment.
- If the business is not following the CDC guidance, all individuals must wear masks and maintain six feet of social distancing.
- Business capacity is only limited by the space available for patrons or parties of patrons to maintain the required social distance.

ADMINISTRATION

Policies and Procedures must be modified and put into effect prior to reopening. These revised policies and procedures should reflect modified service delivery, assessment and service plans, environmental and personal infection control measures, and staff training on all newly instituted policies and procedures. Documentation methods need to be revised to capture staff and participant daily health screenings, cleaning and sanitation compliance, staff training and service delivery to participants.

This list includes, but is not *inclusive* of all procedures to put in place:

- All staff must always wear masks, gloves while preparing/serving food.
- Restroom needs to be disinfected regularly.
- Participants must wash hands after eating, toileting, and otherwise regularly.
- Participants need to be screened to determine on an individualized basis based on their caregivers input, that they can safely use these protocols. Staff must work with the families to understand the participants' ability to wear PPE and follow protocols
- Transportation for any participant or driver who are unvaccinated must include protective barriers or six feet social distancing during travel. Masks must be required, and the vehicle must be fully disinfected before and after each trip.



SAMPLE OF WELLNESS CHECKS/DAILY HEALTH SCREEN

THE FOLLOWING CAN BE USED AS A SCRIPT WHEN CONDUCTING DAILY INTERVIEWS WITH STAFF, PARTICIPANTS, & FAMILY MEMBERS

1. How are you feeling?
2. Have you had a fever, cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat in the last 14 days? If yes, have you called your doctor?
3. Have you been diagnosed with COVID-19?
4. Have you lost your sense of smell or taste in the last 14 days?
5. Have you been in contact with anyone who has been sick?
6. Were they diagnosed with COVID-19 or under investigation for COVID-19?

IF YOUR PARTICIPANT IS SICK OR HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS COVID-19:

1. Ascertain needs over the phone
2. Ask if they can get access to FaceTime or other electronic means. Use that if possible.
3. Explain that you can assist, but they cannot participate in the day program
4. If your participant is in danger, contact 911
5. If you staff or participant reports any illness, they must be tested for COVID-19 prior to returning to the program.



PRIOR TO REOPENING

The program must have in place the following procedures

The program must have in place the following Personal Protective Equipment to reopen:

- YT-IC infrared thermometer
- Hand sanitizer
- Gloves - including non-latex, and
- Masks

Use disinfectant wipes and spray daily on high touch surfaces (for example: tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks and cellphones). This is to be done on an ongoing daily basis, and periodically throughout the day.

- Floors should be marked with brightly colored tape, at 6 feet intervals showing the space necessary for social distancing
- Chairs and all seating arrangements should be at a minimum of 6 feet apart and be strictly enforced for programs that have unvaccinated employees, participants, or visitors.
- Unvaccinated Participants should be redirected from any physical contact with other participants
- Staff coming into physical contact providing personal care must adhere to PPE guidelines and hand washing for a minimum of 20 seconds with soap and water, and utilize new PPE in-between each contact
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IMPORTANT LINKS TO CHECK FREQUENTLY

Check these links below for updated information

<https://www.nysadultday.com>

https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/NYS_CDCGuidance_Summary.pdf
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-businesses-and-facilities.page>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/adult-day-care-service-centers.html>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>
<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/hand-sanitizer-use.html>

ACL Reopening Guidelines for Senior Nutrition Programs -

https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/common/AoA%20-%20Nutrition%20Reopening-Final%20-%205-5-20_1_0.docx

www.forward.ny.gov

- <https://health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>

