



July 24, 2020

The Self-Advocacy
Association of New York
State

(SANYS)

OPWDD Guidance for
Home Visits 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 about leaving their group home to visit homes and family

SANYS hopes reading this guide helps people understand the guidance

We also want to hear from you about your experience with leaving group homes on visits



OPWDD says people should be able to leave their group home for visits if their region is in **Phase 4** of reopening



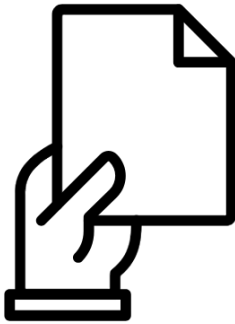
Right now, all regions of the state are in **Phase 4**



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



OPWDD says that if a person living in a group home is healthy, and if everyone at the house they visit is healthy and has avoided contact with anyone who might be sick, then people can visit homes and family



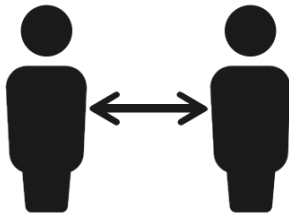
OPWDD has given some guidance on what they think will keep people safe during visits outside of a group home



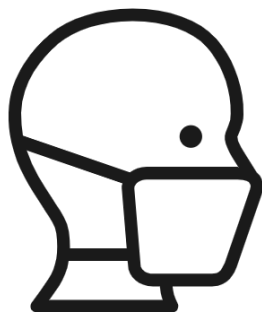
OPWDD says a person going for a visit should be able to pass a health screening and temperature check before they leave



OPWDD wants a person going for a visit to wash their hands before they leave and when they return



OPWDD says staff should remind families with visitors to wash hands, wear face coverings, and social distance if possible



OPWDD says staff should help make sure that families people visit have face coverings, and that they understand how to help people be safe



OPWDD says that if you have to use agency transportation it should only be with people from your own residence



OPWDD says agency transportation should only be half full at most



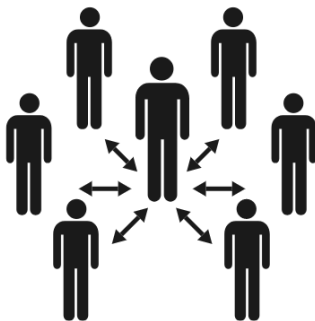
OPWDD wants staff to help people learn how to be on transportation safely, and wants people to wear face masks if they can



OPWDD says that when people need to use public transportation staff should be able to give them hand sanitizer to use



OPWDD wants staff to collect information from people who leave group homes for visits or outings



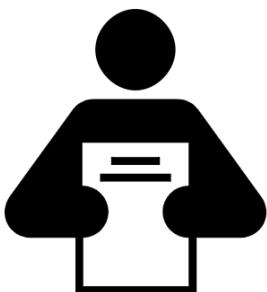
OPWDD would like staff to get the names of people that a person visits, and addresses of places that a person visits when out



OPWDD also wants staff to confirm that the people a person is visiting have not been exposed to the virus, and do not seem sick



OPWDD wants staff to document that people leaving a residence pass a health screening before they leave and after they return



You can work with your **Care Coordinator** to make sure you have a plan for visiting people outside of a group home safely



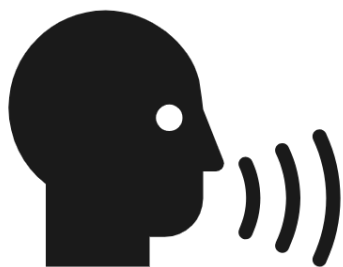
OPWDD also has guidance for people who were staying with family because of COVID-19 and now want to return to group homes



People may return to group homes if the group home has had no one with COVID-19 for 14 days, and if the person has not had contact with anyone who might have COVID-19 for 14 days



The person should also be able to show that they have not had any symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days (You can find symptoms here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>)



We hope this makes it easier for people to understand how they may meet **OPWDD** guidance

SANYS wants to keep hearing from you about your experiences going on visits outside of group homes

You can contact us at www.sanys.org