



*Coronavirus (COVID-19)*

# News Bulletin

November 11, 2020

## What's Happening at Care Design NY

You are invited to join us tomorrow, 11.12, for an online meeting @ **11:00 am**. Please [click here](#) to register. This will be an opportunity for you to ask the Care Design NY leadership team questions as OPWDD resumes their in-person and service delivery operations.

Your feedback is crucial to influencing our most important priorities!

Please [click here](#) to access the recorded online meetings.

[Click here](#) to see all of the upcoming meetings through year-end.

### **UPCOMING ONLINE EDUCATION SESSION: November 18 @ 10:00 am**

You are invited to a special education online session, "Life After High School-- Transition Planning and Your Child's IEP" scheduled on Wednesday, November 18 @ 10:00 am. [Click here](#) for more information and to register. *Note: please complete the online questionnaire when you register, so we can identify your geographic location in New York State and the education needs you are seeking.*

**OPWDD News, Updates & Health Advisories**

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## COVID-19 Updated Staffing/Return to Work Guidance

On 11.10.20, OPWDD issued two updated guidance documents for providers regarding staffing and return to work which reflects the most current [travel advisory guidance](#) issued by the NYS Department of Health:

1. [Health Advisory: Revised Protocols for Personnel in Clinical and Direct Care Settings to Return to Work Following COVID-19 Exposure or Infection.](#)
2. [Revised Staff Guidance for the Management of Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in Facilities or Programs Operated and/or Certified by the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities](#)

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## OPWDD Front Door Update Requirements

On 11.10.20, OPWDD issued a memorandum with updated requirements and eligibility for its Front Door. [Click here](#) to read.

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## OPWDD Health Advisory and Guidance

On 10.23.20, OPWDD issued [interim guidance on designated cluster mitigation and oversight](#) to limit the spread of COVID-19. This guidance is applicable to programs and facilities certified or operated by OPWDD located within the geographic zones designated as part of New York State Governor's strategic response to micro-clusters via the [Cluster Action Initiative](#).

To help you monitor the evolving situation, please visit the [New York Forward website](#) on the State's cluster action initiative for the most up-to-date information on the currently designated zones. You may enter a specific street address: [click here](#).

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## Public Comment Open for HCBS Waiver Amendment

The Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) announced an opportunity for the public to comment on the draft OPWDD Comprehensive Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Amendment. This HCBS Waiver is the Medicaid program that provides opportunities for adults

and children with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) to receive services in their own home or community.

[Click here](#) to learn more and to access a copy of the draft April 1, 2021 Waiver Amendment. The public comment period will be open through December 18, 2020. Written comments can be sent to OPWDD via email at: [peoplefirstwaiver@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:peoplefirstwaiver@opwdd.ny.gov) or by mail to: OPWDD, Attention: Division of Policy and Program Development, 44 Holland Avenue, Albany, NY 12229. Please specify "1915(c) April 1, 2021 Waiver Amendment Comments" in the subject line.

Tomorrow, Thursday, 11.12, OPWDD will be hosting two webinars to provide an overview of the proposed changes included in the April 1, 2021 Waiver Amendment draft. [Click here](#) to register for either the morning or evening webinar.

## Other Resources

### Picture Stories: Coping with the Coronavirus

Beyond Words, an organization in London, has developed a number of picture stories for individuals who don't read or experience anxiety with words. Please [click here](#) to see their picture story selection.

## In The News

### Simultaneous Rallies

On Tuesday, 11.17 @ 11:00 am, NYC FAIR and the Long Island Advocacy Network for the Developmentally Disabled (LIANDD) in conjunction with the NYC Developmental Disabilities (DD) Councils in Brooklyn, Bronx, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island, ENYDDA and NYADD are holding simultaneous rallies to advocate saving disability services in New York State from funding cuts.

Please [click here](#) for the locations. *Note: The Albany rally will be in person in front of the New York State Senate Building and or a mobile rally around the Capitol Building.*

For more information, please contact: ENYDDA@gmail.com.

## What's Happening Outside of Care Design NY



### **Celebrating 50 Years of Guardianship: Its Value, Alternatives and Best Practices**

The final two virtual presentations are scheduled for:

November 12: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

November 19: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Where: Zoom platform on [www.thearcny.org](http://www.thearcny.org)

Cost: FREE

Questions? Email [bermane@thearcny.org](mailto:bermane@thearcny.org) or [buchanana@thearcny.org](mailto:buchanana@thearcny.org)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

Care Design NY is committed to getting answers to your most pressing questions! We have documented the answers from our subject matter experts.

Have a question? Please email: [memberfeedback@caredesignny.org](mailto:memberfeedback@caredesignny.org).

Please click on the Frequently Asked Questions button below. We will continue to update this FAQ list, so please check back frequently!

**Emergency Resource Search (COVID-19 SOS)**

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**COVID-19 Resource Center for Members**