



Department of Health

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DATE: July 23, 2021

TO: Medical Model Adult Day Health Care Programs

FROM: New York State Department of Health

Updated: Health Advisory: Reopening Guidance for Medical Model Adult Day Health Care Program

Please distribute immediately to:
Administrators, Infection Preventionists, Medical Directors,
Adult Day Health Care Program Directors

Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) programs provide a wide range of services to a large number of individuals with multiple chronic conditions who otherwise would require nursing home admission. This advisory updates the Department of Health's (DOH) March 25, 2021 guidance regarding the reopening of ADHC programs, including the resumption of visitation in the ADHC and providing updated transportation guidance.

Per the March 25, 2021 guidance, approved ADHC programs with DOH-approved reopening plans were eligible to reopen as follows:

- Off-site ADHC programs located in all areas across the state were eligible to reopen beginning April 1, 2021.
- ADHC programs co-located on the grounds or immediately adjacent to a sponsoring nursing home were eligible to reopen beginning April 15, 2021, provided that there were no active COVID-19 cases associated with the co-located nursing home and the nursing home meet the eligibility criteria for visitation.
 - **UPDATE: Given the end of the State Disaster Emergency, these programs are now eligible to reopen, pursuant to the infection control guidelines outlined herein.**

ADHC programs that have reopened are expected to follow strict standards for infection control for staff, registrants, and visitors. Approved ADHC programs that have not reopened must notify DOH prior to reopening and, consistent with 10 NYCRR 425.4(c), include with this notification a copy of the program's updated policies and procedures for infection control. Notices of reopening and such infection control plans may be sent via e-mail to covidnursinghomeinfo@health.ny.gov and should address the following three key areas of operation:

1. Physical distancing in the ADHC

To open, each plan submitted by the ADHC program should contain policies and procedures that ensure:

- If only fully vaccinated registrants and fully vaccinated staff are engaged in group activities or meals, such persons may engage in the group activity or meal without the use of a face mask or face covering and without 6 ft. social distancing;
- If any unvaccinated (including those not fully vaccinated) registrant, staff, or visitor is present during group activities or meals, all individuals must wear a face mask or face covering, as medically tolerated, and maintain 6 ft. social distancing requirements, unless a physical distance of less than 6 ft. is required for safety or core function activity (i.e., assisting with eating or toileting);
- ADHC registrants not engage in communal dining with nursing home residents until further notice;
- ADHC registrants do not engage in activities with nursing home residents until further notice; and
- Unvaccinated registrants wear a face mask or facecovering as medically tolerated and maintain 6 ft. of social distance (unless a physical distance of less than 6 ft. is required for safety or core function activity).

2. Infection control, including screening of registrants, staff, and visitors

ADHC providers should follow program-specific infection control policies and follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and DOH guidance on staff testing, registrant screening, and visitor policy including visitor screening until further notice. In addition to these policies, each ADHC program should ensure:

- Proper supply of PPE for staff, visitors, and registrants is onsite;
- Program follows DOH and CDC guidance on cleaning and disinfection of all hard surfaces;
- All registrants, except those who have recently recovered as detailed below, and those who are fully vaccinated, must have proof of a negative baseline COVID-19 test performed no more than three (3) days prior to attending the registrant's first session. PCR or antigen testing is acceptable. Results of that testing shall be available and maintained on file with the ADHC program;
- All registrants who had a positive COVID-19 diagnostic test within the three months before the first session must have met either the criteria for discontinuation of home isolation or discontinuation of transmission-based precautions, as appropriate and based on those criteria in force at the time. Such registrants who have fully recovered from COVID-19 within the previous three months should not be required to test prior to attending, and if such registrants are exposed to COVID-19 and asymptomatic, they do not need to quarantine, consistent with DOH and CDC guidance on quarantine;
- Prior to the initiation of services, each consenting, unvaccinated ADHC registrant eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine must be assisted in obtaining such vaccination, and a record of vaccination must be maintained onsite at the program site and made available upon DOH's request. Vaccine declinations must be tracked by and maintained on file with the ADHC program;
- Each registrant, staff member, or visitor is screened upon arrival to the program in an area separate from the program space in accordance with DOH and CDC guidelines;
- Staff follow DOH and CMS guidance on proper use of PPE when caring for registrants and follow the core principles of infection control and prevention;

- Visitors adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention;
- All registrants are free from communicable disease upon return to program;
- All staff wear a mask during operating hours;
- The ADHC program must have dedicated staff to conduct the program activities and shall limit the use of staff from the affiliated nursing home to the extent practicable, but under no circumstances shall the ADHC program utilize staff from the nursing home dedicated to care for COVID-19 residents;
- Adequate disinfection of program space occurs in between sessions;
- Registrants and caregivers are informed on infection control practices implemented by the program;
- All staff are trained on infection control practices and program policies;
- Annual quality improvement plans are reviewed and up to date;
- Program leadership follows DOH guidance on reporting if staff person, registrant, or visitor is suspected of having COVID-19 to the appropriate jurisdiction having authority and the program may be temporarily suspended as a result of exposure to an individual, either staff, registrant, or visitor who tests positive. In addition, the ADHC program must designate a separate space, separate from the screening area, to serve as a holding area for staff or registrants presenting with symptoms of COVID-19 while awaiting transportation from the program;
- Policies are in place to communicate with caregivers on any confirmed COVID-19 case among staff, registrants, or visitors; and
- ADHC staff follow the applicable DOH “return to work” guidance related to confirmed or suspected COVID-19 diagnosis or exposure.

3. Transportation

- Allow multi-loading or group rides in instances where capacity does not exceed fifty (50) percent of the vehicle manufacturer’s recommended seating capacity. Drivers must be included in capacity calculations;
- Require that all individuals, including the driver, wear face coverings at all times in the vehicle. Social distancing must be maintained for individuals who cannot tolerate wearing a mask;
- Adhere to hygiene and sanitation requirements from the CDC) and DOH and maintain cleaning logs;
- ADHC programs will investigate alternative sources of transportation, like caregiver or public transport, if necessary; and
- ADHC program will keep on file vendor COVID-19 Reopening Safety Plan.

Information for healthcare providers on topics related to COVID-19 is readily available on DOH’s public website at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/information-healthcare-providers>. Please be advised that this guidance will be periodically re-evaluated and revisions made as appropriate.

Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation in responding to COVID-19 concerns. Questions may be routed to covidnursinghomeinfo@health.ny.gov.