



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

March 8, 2020

To All Nursing Home Administrators and Adult Care Facility Operators in the New Rochelle Area:

Many asymptomatic individuals can carry COVID-19 (“coronavirus”), and there have been confirmed coronavirus cases in your local community.

Effective immediately, to minimize resident exposure, all nursing homes and adult care facilities (ACFs) in the New Rochelle area must suspend all visitation, including by family and other resident guests. Only staff, residents, and staff of the local and State Health Departments should be permitted access to your facility, except in an emergency, through March 22, 2020.

This action is necessary based on the susceptibility of older individuals, particularly those with underlying health conditions, to the virus and their heightened risk of developing serious illness.

All facilities should take any steps necessary to permit alternative means of allowing residents to communicate with family and friends, such as the use of the telephone and electronic communication applications wherever possible.

As soon as possible, please hold a resident council meeting and contact resident families and contacts to alert them of this restriction. Signs shall be posted notifying the public that visitation is suspended. This directive supersedes any prior signage guidance until the suspension ceases.

Any deviation from this guidance requires approval from the New York State Department of Health. ACFs with questions should contact the Division of ACF and Assisted Living Surveillance via email to acfinfo@health.ny.gov. Nursing Homes with questions may contact the Division of Nursing Home Surveillance/IID via email to nhinfo@health.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

Sheila McGarvey
Director
Division of Nursing Homes and Intermediate
Care Facilities/ Individuals with Intellectual
Disabilities
New York State Department of Health

Heidi Hayes
Acting Director
Division of Adult Care
Facilities and Assisted Living
New York State Department
of Health

cc: Claudette Royal, NYS State Ombudsman, Long Term Care Ombudsman Program
Gabriela Tapia Ramirez, Ombudsman Coordinator, NYS Long Term Care Ombudsman
Program
Greg Olsen, Director, NYS Office of the Aging
Celeste Johnson, Director, Metropolitan Area Regional Office
Dr. Sherlita Amler, Commissioner, Westchester County Department of Health