



Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

MARY T. BASSETT, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

KRISTIN M. PROUD
Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

August 2, 2022

DAL: DHCBS 22-13
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Screening of Home
Care and Hospice Personnel

Dear Administrator:

This advisory supersedes the guidance from the New York State Department of Health dated March 22, 2020 (DHCBS DAL: 20-08 Updated) and modifies the twice daily screening requirements for staff upon arriving at work to screening only once a day. Prior guidance recommended that home care staff require staff to self-monitor for fever by taking their temperature twice a day and remain alert for respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, sore throat).

Agencies should continue to have a policy in place to contact daily, each employee prior to the employee beginning home care visits to confirm that the employee is self-monitoring and has no symptoms. The policy should also require home care workers to contact the agency if they develop symptoms during the workday and immediately cease patient visitation.

In addition, agencies must have a plan in place to advise and refer staff to medical attention when they exhibit fever and/or respiratory symptoms. Staff who are symptomatic or report an elevated fever should be sent home and should contact their primary care physician as soon as possible.

Agencies are reminded that personnel are required to use appropriate PPE, including masks.

The health and safety of healthcare workers and our ability to provide and support patient care remain our priorities. Questions regarding COVID-19 or policies related to COVID-19 infections, return to work or quarantine may be forwarded to covidhomecareinfo@health.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

Carol A. Rodat
Director
Division of Home and Community Based
Services