



# Community, Work & Independence, Inc.

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To: CWI Service Recipients, Families & Residential Providers

From: April Boucher, Director of Quality Assurance  
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Date: November 4, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Update: Designated Cluster Mitigation

We hope this message finds you/yours well. We wanted to take the time to provide you with a COVID-19 update. On October 9, 2020, Governor Cuomo issued Executive Order No. 202.68. The executive order has identified a new strategy of aggressively responding to micro-clusters of COVID-19 outbreaks to limit spread of the virus. With one of the lowest rates of COVID-19 transmission in the country, New York has the opportunity to identify and limit spread of COVID-19 by addressing "micro-clusters," which are outbreaks of new cases within a limited and definable geographic area.

Under the Governor's order, the risk of COVID-19 transmission will be characterized in identified geographic areas by three colors (red, orange and yellow) and the level of infection management is will be increased as geographic areas demonstrate higher rates of infection and move along the continuum from yellow to orange to red. Areas whose data shows substantial COVID-19 spread may be designated either a Red Micro-Cluster Zone, an Orange Warning Zone, or a Yellow Precautionary Zone.

Attached to this memo, you will find a chart that explains the impact on services of a geographic area that is identified as a hot spot, including visitation guidelines and service suspension for programs and facilities certified or operated by the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). These restrictions will be required in addition to all other current applicable OPWDD COVID-19 guidance.

Per OPWDD, these restrictions will continue, until the red or orange designation from the geographic area is modified. Programs contained within the yellow designated areas may continue to operate but weekly testing is highly encouraged. In cases where an individual resides in a certified residential program and attends certified day services, the residential provider should be responsible for referring the individual for testing to avoid duplicative testing.

Should New York State designate Warren, Washington, or Saratoga Counties as one of these identified zones, based on infection rate data, CWI Division Directors and staff will notify families, residential providers and all other pertinent parties of the level of restriction and the relevant responses we are taking, including any suspension of services or additional testing. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to your program manager.

*Enriching lives one story at a time.*

[www.cwinc.org](http://www.cwinc.org)

Type of Activity	RED	ORANGE	YELLOW
<u>Certified Site-Based Day Services</u> (day habilitation, site-based prevocational services, site-based respite, pathway to employment)	SUSPENDED	SUSPENDED	OPEN  -In compliance with OPWDD's Interim Guidance for Day Services Reopening and the Day Program Reopening Safety Plans  -Weekly Testing Recommended
<u>Group Non-Site-Based Services</u> (day habilitation without walls, community based prevocational services, non-site-based respite, community habilitation-group, supported employment-group)	SUSPENDED	OPEN  -10 Person capacity (inclusive of individuals and staff)  -Weekly Testing Recommended	OPEN  -In compliance with OPWDD's Interim Guidance for Day Services Reopening and the Day Program Reopening Safety Plans  -Weekly Testing Recommended

<u>Non-Group Non-Site-Based Services</u> (services provided to 1-3 individuals: community habilitation, respite, employment training, SEMP, community based prevocational services)	OPEN  -2 Person capacity (inclusive of individuals and staff)  -Weekly Testing Recommended	OPEN  Weekly Testing Recommended
<u>Residential</u> (certified residences, free standing respite, day services and community habilitation being temporarily delivered in a certified residence)	OPEN  -visitation suspended -Weekly Testing Recommended	OPEN  Weekly Testing Recommended