



Office of Mental Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ANN MARIE T. SULLIVAN, M.D.
Commissioner

CHRISTOPHER TAVELLA, Ph.D.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

March 20, 2020

Dear Provider:

The Governor's most recent Executive Order, EO 202.7, as well as the associated Guidance issued by the Empire State Development Corporation, sets forth in-person work restrictions, effective as of March 21, 2020 at 8:00 p.m., and until further notice.

These restrictions require all businesses and nonprofit entities to utilize telecommuting and work from home procedures to the extent possible.

Please remember that an **essential business**, which includes home health care workers/aides, direct support professionals (DSPs), elder care, nursing homes, residential mental health care/congregate care facilities, walk-in health facilities, hospitals, research/laboratories, and those providing medical equipment and supplies are considered **essential and are exempt from the restrictions mentioned above.**

We are writing to confirm that your agencies, which provide services to individuals with mental illness and are operated, licensed, designated, funded, or authorized by the Office of Mental Health, qualify for this exemption and should remain in operation to the extent necessary to provide those services. This includes your administrative offices and those employees necessary to support the essential functions of your agency's mission.

Please remember to continue to maintain good hygiene and precautionary measures, as COVID-19 can be spread from infected individuals to others through close personal contact. Providers must encourage good hygiene and social distancing within the workplace and must keep staff home if they are sick.

Providers should regularly check the NYS DOH and OMH websites for the latest guidance on COVID-19 as the outbreak evolves.

<https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/providers.htm>

<https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/guidance/>