



Department of Health

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DATE: April 7, 2020
TO: Adult Care Facility (ACF) Administrators, Hospital Discharge Planners
FROM: New York State Department of Health

Advisory: Hospital Discharges and Admissions to ACFs

Please distribute immediately to:
ACF Administrators, Hospital Discharge Planners

COVID-19 has been detected in multiple communities throughout New York State. This guidance is being issued to clarify expectations for ACFs receiving residents returning from hospitalization, and for ACFs accepting new admissions. Hospital discharge planning staff and ACFs should carefully review this guidance with all staff directly involved in resident admission, transfer, and discharges.

During this public health emergency, all ACFs must have a process in place to expedite return of **asymptomatic** residents from the hospital. Residents are deemed appropriate for return to an ACF upon a determination, by the hospital physician or designee, that the resident is medically stable for return, in consultation with the ACF.

Hospital discharge planners **must** confirm to the ACF, by telephone, that the resident is medically stable for discharge and whether the resident is asymptomatic. Comprehensive written discharge instructions must be provided by the hospital prior to the transport of a resident to the ACF.

No resident shall be denied re-admission or admission to the ACF solely based on a confirmed or suspected diagnosis of COVID-19. Any denial of admission or re-admission must be based on the ACF's inability to provide the level of care required by the prospective resident, pursuant to the hospital's discharge instructions and based on the ACF's current licensure or certification. Additionally, ACFs are prohibited from requiring a hospitalized resident, who is determined medically stable, to be tested for COVID-19 prior to admission or readmission. However in accordance with state regulations 18 NYCRR §487.4(c)(12) and §488.4(c)(12), ACFs cannot admit residents who are symptomatic, unless the ACF's licensure and certification require onsite clinical staff capable of attending to the medical needs of a symptomatic COVID-19 resident, pursuant to the hospital's discharge instructions (i.e., an Enhanced Assisted Living Residence).

Information regarding COVID-19 is readily available on the New York State Department of Health public website at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/information-healthcare-providers>. Standard infection control precautions must be maintained, and environmental cleaning made a priority.

Critical personal protective equipment (PPE) needs should be communicated to your local Office of Emergency Management, with the appropriate information provided at the time of request. Requests **MUST** include:

- Type and quantity of PPE by size;
- Point of contact at the requesting facility or system;
- Delivery location;
- Date request is needed to be filled by; AND
- Record of pending orders.

Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation in responding to COVID-19. General questions or comments about this advisory should be sent to covidadultcareinfo@health.ny.gov.